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Meech, Thomas
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C.57.d.52.

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The Induction to the dapper Mounſier Pages of the Court.

GAllant Squires, haue amongſt you: at Mumchaunce I meane not, for ſo I might chaunce come to ſhort commons, but at *nouus, noua, nouum*, which is in Engliſh, newes of the maker. A proper fellow Page of yours called *Iack Wilſon*, by me commends him vnto you, and hath bequeathed for waſt paper here amongſt you certaine pages of his misfortunes. In anie caſe keepe them preciouſly as a *priuie* token of his good will towardes you. If there bee ſome better than other, he craues you would honor them in theyr death ſo much, as to drie & kindle Tobacco with them: for a need he permits you to wrap veluet pantofles in them alſo; ſo they bee not woe begone at the heeles, or weather-beaten lyke a blacke head with graie hayres, or mangie at the toes, lyke an Ape about the mouth. But as you loue good fellowſhip and anes ace, rather turne them to ſtop muſtard-pottes, than the Grocers ſhould haue one patch of them to wrap mace in: a ſtrong hot coſtly ſpice it is, which aboue all things he hates. To anie vſe about meat & drinke put them to and ſpare not, for they cannot doe theyr countrie better ſeruice. Printers are madde whoorſons, allowe them ſome of them for napkins. Ioſt a little neerer to the matter & the purpoſe. *Memorandum*, euerie one of you after the peruſing of this pamphlet, is to prouide him a caſe of ponyardes, that if you come in companie with anie man which ſhall diſpraiſe it or ſpeak againſt it, you may ſtraight crie *Sic reſpondeo*, and giue him the ſtackado. It ſtandes not with your honours (I aſſure ye) to haue a gentleman and a page abuſde in his abſence. Secondly, whereas you were

wont to ſweare men on a pantofle to be true to your puiſant order, you ſhall ſweare them on nothing but this Chronicle of the king of Pages hence forward. Thirdly, it ſhall be lawfull for anie whatſoeuer, to play with falſe dice in a corner on the couer of this foreſayd Acts and Monuments. None of the fraternitie of the minorites ſhall refuſe it for a pawne in the times of famine and neceſſitie. Euerie Stationers ſtall they paſſe by, whether by daie or by night, they ſhall put off theyr hats too and make a low legge, in regard their grand printed Capitano is there entombd. It ſhalbe flat treaſon for anie of this fore-mentioned catalogue of the point truſſers, once to name him within fortie foote of an alehouſe, mary the tauerne is honorable. Many ſpeciall graue articles more had I to giue you in charge, which your wiſdomes waiting together at the bottom of the great chamber ſtaires, or ſitting in a porch (your parliament houſe) may better conſider off than I can deliuer: onely let this ſuffice for a taſt to the text, and a bitte to pull on a good wit with, as a raſher on the coles is to pull on a cup of Wine.

Heigh paſſe, come aloſte: euerie man of you take your places, and heare *Iacke VVilton* tell his owne Tale.

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ABout that time that the terror of the world, and feauer quartane of the French, Henrie the eight (the onely true subiect of Chronicles, aduanced his standard against the two hundred and fifty towers of Turney and Turwin, and had the Emperour and all the nobilitie of Flanders, Holand, & Brabant as mercenarie attendants on his sul-faylo fortune, Iacke Wilton, (a Gentleman at least) was a certain kind of an appendix or page, belonging or appertaining in or vnto the confines of the English court, where what my credit was, a number of my creditors that I coined can testifie, Cœlum petimus stultitia, which of vs all is not a sinner. Be it knowen to as many as will paie mony inough to peruse my storie, that I followed the court or the camp, or the campe and the court, when Turwin lost her maidenhead, and opened her gates to more than Iane Trosse did. There did I, (soft let me drinke before I go anie further) raigne sole king of the cans and blacke iackes, prince of the pigmeis, countie palatine of cleane straw and prouant, and to conclude, Lord high regent of rashers of the coles and red herring cobs. Paulò maiora canamus. Well, to the purpose. What stratagemicall acts and monuments doo you thinke an ingentous infant of my yeres might enact: you will say it were sufficient if he slur a die, pawn his master to the vtmost peny, and minister the oath of the pantofle artificially. These are signes of good education I must confesse, and arguments of ingrace and vertue to proceed. Oh but Aliquid latet quod non patet, there's a further path I must trace: examples confirme, list lordings to my proceedings. Who so euer is acquainted with the state of a campe, vnderstandes that in it be many quarters, and yet not so many as on London bridge. In those quarters are many companies: Such companie much knauery, as true as that olde adage, Much curtesie, much subtiltie. Those companies, lyke a greate deale of corne, do yeld some chaffe, the corne are corpulent, the chaffe are good fellowes, which are quickly blowen to nothing, wyth bearing a light heart in a lyght purse. Amongest this chaffe was I winnowing my wittes to liue merrily, and by my

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troth so I did: the prince could but command men spend their blood in his seruice, I could make them spend al the mony they had for my pleasure. But pouertie in the end partes friends, though I was prince of their purses, & exacted of my vnthrifte subiects as much liquid allegeance as any keisar in the world could doe, yet where it is not to bee had the king must loose his right, want cannot bee withstoode, men can doe no more than they can doe, what remained then, but the fores case must help, when the lions skin is out at the elbowes.

There was a Lord in the campe, let him be a Lord of misrule if you will, for he kept a plaine alehouse without welt or gard of ante tuybush, and sold syder and cheese by pint and by pound to all that came (at the verie name of syder I can but sigh, there is so much of it in renish wine now a daies.) Well, Tendit ad sydera virtus, thers great vertue belongs (I can tel you) to a cup of syder, and very good men haue sold it, and at sea it is Aqua cœlestis, but thats neither here nor there, if it had no other patrone but this pere of quart pottes to authorize it, it were sufficient. This great Lord, this worthie Lord, this noble Lord, thought no scorne (Lord haue mercie vpon vs) to haue his great veluet breeches larded with the droppinges of this daintie liquor, & yet he was an old seruitor, a cauelier of an ancient house, as might appeare by the armes of his ancestors, drawen verie amiably in chalke on the inside of his tent doore.

He and no other was the man I chose out to damne with a lewd monilesse deuice, for comming to him on a day as he was counting his barels, and setting the price in chalke on the head of them, I did my dutie verie deuoutly, and told his alie honor I had matters of some secrecy to impart vnto him, if it pleased him to grant me priuate audience. With me yong Wilton good he, mary and shalt: bring vs a pint of syder of a fresh tap into the three cups here, wash the pot, so into a backe roome hee lead me, where after he had spitte on his finger, and pickt of two or three moats of his olde moth eaten veluet cap, and sponged and wrong all the rumatike drivel frō his ill fauored goats beard, he bad me declare my minde, and thereupon hee drank to mee on the same. I vp with a long circumstaunce, alias, a cunning shift of the seuentenes, and discourst vnto him what entire affection I had borne him time out of minde, partly for the high

deſcent and linage from whence hee ſprong, and partly for the tender care and prouident reſpect he had of poore ſouldiers, that whereas the baſtitie of that place, (which afforded them no indifferent ſupply of drink or of victuals) might humble them to ſome extremitie, and ſo weaken their handes, he vouchſafed in his owne perſon to be a victualler to the campe (a rare example of magnificence and honorable curteſy) and diligently prouided that without farre trauell, euerie man might for his money haue ſyder and cheeſe his belly full, nor did hee ſell his cheeſe by the way onely, or his ſyder by the great, but abaſt himſelf with his owne handes, to take a ſhoomakers knife, (a homely inſtrument for ſuch a high perſonage to touch) and cut it out equally lyke a true iuſticiarie, in little pennyworths, that it would doo a man good for to looke vpon. So likewiſe of his ſyder, the poore man might haue his moderate draught of it, (as there is a moderation in all things) as well for his doit or his dandiprat, as the rich man for his half ſouſe or his denier. Not ſo much quoth I, but this Tapſters linnen apron which you weare to protect your apparell from the imperfections of the ſpigot, moſt amply bewray your lowly minde, I ſpeake it with teares, for few ſuch noble men haue wee that will draw drinke in linnen aprons. Why you are euerie childes fellow, anie man that comes vnder the name of a ſouldier and a good fellowe, you will ſit and beare companie to the laſt pot yea, and you take in as good part the homely phraſe of mine hoſt heeres to you, as if one ſaluted you by all the titles of your baronie. These conſiderations I ſaie, which the worlde ſuffers to ſlip by in the channell of forgetfulnes, haue moued me in ardent zeale of your welfare, to forewarne you of ſome dangers that haue beſet you and your barrels. At the name of dangers hee ſtart vp and bounſt with his fiſt on the boord ſo hard, that his tapſter ouer-hearing him, cried, anone anone ſir, by and by, and came and made a low legge and aſkt him what he lackt. Hee was readie to haue ſtriken his tapſter, for interrupting him in attention of this his ſo much deſired relation, but for feare of diſpleaſing mee hee moderated his furie, & onely ſending for the other freſh pint, wild him looke the barre, & come when he is cald with a deuils name. Well, I earneſt impertunitie, after I had moiſtned my lippes, t

as followeth. It chanced me the other night, amongeſt other pages, to attend where the King with his Lordes and many chiefe leaders ſate in counſell, there amongſt ſundrie ſerious matters that were debated, and intelligences from the enemy giuen vp, it was priuily informed, (no villains to theſe priuie informers) that you, euen you that I nowe ſpeake to, had (O would I had no tong to tell the reſt, by this drinke it grieues me ſo I am not able to repeate it.) Nowe was my dronken Lord readie to hang himſelfe for the ende of the full point, and ouer my necke he throwes himſelf verie lubberly, and intreated me as I was a proper young Gentleman, and euer looke for pleaſure at his handes, ſoone to rid him out of this hell of ſuſpence, and reſolue him of the reſt, then fell hee on his knees, wrong his handes, and I thinke on my conſcience, wepte out all the ſyder that he had dronke in a weeke before, to moue me to haue pittie on him, he roſe & put his ruſſie ring on my finger, gaue mee his greaſie purſe with that ſingle mony that was in it, promiſed to make mee his heire, and a thouſand more fauours, if I would expire the miſerie of his vnſpeakable tormenting vncertaintie. I beeing by nature inclined to Mercie, (for in deede I knewe two or three good wenches of that name) had him harden his eares, and not make his eies abortiue before theyr time, and he ſhould haue the inſide of my braſt turne outward, heare ſuch a tale as would tempt the vtmoſt ſtrength of lyfe to attend it, and not die in the midſt of it. Why (quoth I,) my ſelfe that am but a poore childiſh well-willer of yours, with the verie thought, that a man of your deſerts and ſtate, by a number of peſants and varlets ſhoulde be ſo iniuriouſly abuſed in hugger mugger, haue wepte all my braine bywarde. The whole vnder our citie bridge, carries not ſo much water ouer the citie, as my braine hath welled forth guſhing ſtreames of ſorrow, I haue wepte ſo immoderatly and lauiſhly, that I thought verily my palat had bin turned to piſſing Conduit in London. My eyes haue bin dronke, outragiouſly dronke, wyth giuing but ordinarie entercourſe through their ſea-circled Ilands to my piſſilling deriment. What ſhal I ſay? that which malice hath laide is the more ouerthrow and murther of theſe daies. Change not your colour, none can ſlander a cleare conſcience to it ſelf, receiue al your fraught of miſfortune in at

It is buzzed in the Kings head that you are a secret friend to the Enemie, and vnder pretence of getting a License to furnish the Campe with syder and such like prouant, you haue furnisht the Enemie, & in emptie barrels sent letters of discouerie, and corne innumerable.

I might wel haue left here, for by this time his white liuer had mixt it selfe with the white of his eye, and both were turned vpwards, as if they had offered themselues a faire white for death to shoote at. The troth was, I was verie loath mine hoste and I should part with dryes lips: wherefore the best meanes that I could imagine to wake hym out of his traunce, was to crie loud in his eare, Hoe hoste, whats to pay, will no man loke to the reckoning here? And in plaine veritie it toke expected effect, for with the noyse he started and bustled, lyke a man that had béene scarde with fire out of his sléepe, and ran hastely to his Tapster, and all to belaboured him about the eares, for letting Gentlemen call so long, and not loke in to them. Presently he remembred himselfe, and had like to fall into his memento againe, but that I met him halfe waies, and askt his Lordship what hee meant to slip his necke out of the collar so sodainly, and being reuiued stryke hys Tapster so hastely?

Oh (quoth he) I am bought and sold for doing my Countrey such good seruice as I haue done. They are afraid of me, because my good déedes haue brought me into such estimation with the Communaltie. I sée, I sée, it is not for the lambe to line with the wolfe.

The world is well amended (thought I) with your Sidership, such another fortie yeares nap together as Epemenides had, would make you a perfect wise man. Answere me (quoth he) my wise yong Wilton, is it true that I am thus vnderhand dead and buried by these bad tongues?

Nay (quoth I) you shall pardon me, for I haue spoken too much already, no definitiue sentence of death shall march out of my well meaning lips: they haue but lately suckt milke, and shall they so sodainly change their food, and séeke after bloud?

Oh, but (quoth he) a mans friend is his friend, fill the other pint Tapster: what said the King, did he beléeue it when he heard it? I pray thée say, I sweare by my Nobilitie, neuer in the world shall euer be made priuie, that I receiued anie light of this matter by thée.

That firme affiance (quoth I) had I in you before, or else I would neuer haue gone so farre ouer the shoes, to plucke you out of the myre. Not to make manie words (since you will needs knowe) the

better of you. Nay, then (quoth he) questionles some Planet that loues not Syder hath conspired against me. Moreouer, which is worse, the King hath vowed to giue Turwin one hot breakfast, onely with the bungs that he will plucke out of your barrells. I cannot stay at this time to report each circumstaunce that passed, but the onely counsell that my long cherished kinde inclination can possibly contriue, is now in your old daies to be liberall, such victualls or prouision as you haue, presently distribute it frankely amongst your Souldiers, I would let them burst their bellies with Syder, and bathe in it, before I would run into my Princes ill opinion for a whole sea of it. The hunter pursuing the Beauer for his stones, bee bites them off, and leaues them behinde for him to gather vp, whereby he liues quiet. If greedy hunters and hungrie tale-tellers pursue you, it is for a litle pelfe that you haue, cast it behinde you, neglect it, let them haue it, least it breede a farther inconuenience. Credit my aduice, you shall finde it prophetical: and thus haue I discharged the part of a poore frend. With some few like phrases of ceremonie, your Honors poore suppliant, and so forth, and farewell my good youth, I thanke thee, and wil remember thee, we parted. But the next day I thinke we had a doale of syder, syder in bowles, in scuppets, in helmets: and to conclude, if a man wold haue fild his boots full, ther he might haue had it: prouant thrust it selfe into poore souldiers pockets whether they would or no. Wee made fiue peales of shot into the towne together, of nothing but spiggots and faucets of discarded emptie barrels: euerie vnder-foot souldior had a dikenanters tun, as Diogenes had his tub to slepe in. I my selfe got as manie confiscated Tapsters aprons, as made me a Tent, as big as anie ordinarie Commaunders in the field. But in conclusion, my welbeloued Baron of double beere got him humbly on hys mary-bones to the King, and complained he was old and striken in yeres, and had neuer an heire to cast at a dogge, wherfore if it might please his Maiestie to take his lands into his hands, and allowe hym some reasonable pension to liue, he shuld be meruailously wel pleased: as for warres he was weary of them, yet as long as his highnes ventred his owne person, he would not flinch a fot, but make his wythered bodie a buckler to beare off any blow aduanced against him.

The King meruailing at this alteration of his syder-merchant (for so he often pleasantly tearmd him) with a litle farther talk bolted out the whole complotment. Then was I pitifully whipt for my holiday lye, though they made themselues merrie with it manie a Winters euening after. For all this, his good olde-headed-honor mine host, ver-

seuered in his former request to the King to accept his lands, & allow him a headmanrie or out-brotherlhippe of brachet: which through his vehement instancie toke effect, and the King iestingly said, since he would néeds haue it so, he would distraine one part of his land for impost of syder, which he was behinde with.

This was one of my famous atchieuements, inlomuch as I neuer light vpon the like famous Foole, but I haue done a thousand better iests, if they had been bookt in order as they were begotten. It is pittie posteritie should be depriued of such precious Records: & yet there is no remedie, and yet there is two, for when all failes, welfare a good memorie. Gentle Readers (take you be gentle now since I haue cald you so) as frely as my knauerie was mine owne, it shall be yours to vse in the way of honestie.

Euen in this expedition of Turwin (for the King stood not long a thrumming of buttons there) it hapned me fall in (I would it had falne out otherwise for his sake) with an vgly mechanicall Captain. You must thinke in an Armie, where trunchions are in their state-house, it is a flat stab once to name a Captaine without cap in hand. Well, suppose he was a Captaine, and had neuer a good cap of his owne, but I was faine to lend him one of my Lords cast veluet caps, and a weather-beaten feather, wherewith he threatned his soldiers a far off, as Iupiter is said, with the shaking of his haire to make heauen & earth to quake. Suppose out of the parings of a paire of false dice, I apparelled both him and my selfe manie a time and oft: and surely, not to slander the diuell, if anie man euer deserued the golden dice the King of the Parthians sent to Demetrius it was I. I had the right vayne of sucking vp a die twixt the dints of my fingers, not a creuise in my hand but could swallow a quater trey for a néede: in the line of life manie a dead lift did there lurke, but it was nothing towards the maintenance of a familie. This Monsieur Capitano eate vp the creame of my earnings, and Crede mihi, res est ingeniosa dare, any man is a fine fellow as long as he hath any money in his purse. That money is like the Marigold, which opens and shuts with the Sunne: if fortune smileth or one bee in fauour, it floweth: if the euening of Age comes on, or he falls into disgrace, it fadeth and is not to be found. I was my crafts-master though I were but yong, and could as soone decline Nominatiuo hic Asinus, as a greater Clearke, wherefore I thought it not conuenient my Soldado should haue my purs any longer for his drum to play vpon, but I would giue him Iacke Drum

This was my plot: I knewe a peece of seruice of Intelligence, which was presently to be done, that required a man with all his fiue wittes to effect it, and would ouerthrow anie sole that should vndertake it: to this seruice did I animate and egge my foresaid costs and charges, alias, Senior veluet-cap, whose head was not encombred with too much forecast: and comming to him in his cabbin about dinner time, where I found him very deuoutly paring of his nayles for want of other repast, I entertaind him with this solemne oration.

Captaine, you perceiue how nere both of vs are driuen, the dice of late are growen as melancholy as a dog, high men and low men both prosper alike, langrets, fullams, and all the whole fellowshippe of them, will not affoord a man his dinner, some other meanes must be inuented to preuent imminent extremitie. My state, you are not ignorant, depends on trencher seruice, your aduancement must be derived from the valour of your arme. In the delaies of Siege, desert hardly gets a day of hearing: tis gowns must direct and guns enact all the warres that is to be made against walls. Resteth no way for you to clime sodenly, but by doing some rare stratageme, the like not before heard of: and fitlie at this time occasion is offered.

There is a feate the King is desirous to haue wrought on some great man of the Enemies side: marrie it requireth not so much resolution as discretion to bring it to passe, and yet resolution inough should be showne in it too, being so ful of hazardous ieopardie as it is, harke in your eare, thus it is: without more drumbling or pawling, if you will vndertake it, and worke it through stitch (as you maye, ere the King hath determined which waie to goe about it) I warrant you are made while you liue, you need not care which way your staffe falls, if it proue not so, then cut off my head.

Oh my Auditors, had you seene him how he stretcht out his limbs, scratcht his scabd elbowes at this speach, how hee set his cap ouer his ey-browes like a polititian, and then folded his armes one in another, and nodded with the head, as who would say, let the French beware for they shall finde me a diuell: if (I say) you had seene but halfe the action that he vsed, of shrucking vp his shoulders, smiling scornfully, playing with his fingers on his buttons, and biting the lip; you wold haue laught your face and your kines together. The yron being hot, I thought to lay on load, for in anie case I would not haue his humor cole. As before I laid open vnto him the briefe summe of the seruice, so now I began to vrge the honorablenes of it, and what a rare thing

and how diuerse of meane Parentage haue come to bee Monarchs by it. Then I discourst of the qualities and properties of him in euery respect, how like the Wolfe he must drawe the breath from a man long before he bee seene, how like a Hare he must sleepe with his eyes open, how as the Eagle in his flying casts dust in the eyes of Crowes and other Fowles, for to blinde them, so hee must cast dust in the eyes of his enemies, delude their sight by one meanes or other that they diue not into his subtleties: howe hee must be familiar with all and trust none, drinke, carouse, and lecher with him out of whom he hopes to wring any matter, sweare and forsweare, rather than be suspected, and in a word, haue the Art of dissembling at his fingers ends as perfect as any Courtier.

Perhaps (quoth I) you may haue some fewe greasie Canailers that will seeke to dissuade you from it, and they will not sticke to stand on their three halfe penny honour, swearing and staring that a man were better be a hangman than an Intelligencer, and call him a sneaking Caueldropper, a scraping hedgecreeper, and a piperly pickethanke, but you must not be discouraged by their talke, for the most part of these beggarly contemners of wit, are huge burlybond Butchers like Ayax, good for nothing but to strike right downe blowes on a wedge with a cleauing beetle, or stand hammering all day vpon barres of yron. The whelpes of a Beare neuer growe but sleeping, and these Beare-wards hauing bigge limbs shall be preferd though they do nothing. You haue read stories, (Ile be sworne he neuer look't in booke in his life) howe many of the Romaine worthies were diuers that haue gone as Spialls into their Enemies Campe: Vlysses, Nestor, Diomed, went as spies together in the night into the Tents of Rhæsus, and intercepted Dolon the spie of the Troians: neuer any discredited the trade of Intelligencers but Iudas, and he hanged himselfe. Danger will put wit into any man. Architas made a wodden Doue to flie, by which proportion I see no reason that the veryest blocke in the worlde should dispayre of any thing. Though nature be contrary inclined, it may be altred, yet vsually those whom shee denies her ordinary gifts in one thing, shee doubles them in another. That which the Asse wants in wit, hee hath in honesty, who euer sawe him kicke or winch, or vse any tades tricks, though he liue an hundred yeares you shall neuer heare that he breaks pasture. Amongst men, he that hath not a good wit, lightly hath a good yron memory, and he that hath neither of both, hath some

men: the bulls hornes serue him all well as hands to fight withall, the Lyons pawes are as good to him as a pol-axe to knocke downe anye that resist him, the bores tushes serue him in better steed than a sword and buckler: what neede the snaile care for eyes, when hee feeles the way with his two hornes, as well as if he were as quicke sighted as a decypherer. There is a fish, that hauing no wings supports herselfe in the aire with her finnes. Admit that you had neither wit nor capacitie, as sure in my iudgement there is none equall vnto you in idiotisme, yet if you haue simplicitie and secrecie, serpents themselues will thinke you a serpent, for what serpent is there but hides his sting: and yet whatsoeuer be wanting, a good plausible tongue in such a man of imployment, can hardly be sparde, which as the fore-named serpent, with his winding taile fetcheth in those that come nere him, so with a rauishing tale it gathers al mens harts vnto him: which if he haue not let him neuer looke to inge der by the mouth as rauens and doues do, that is, mount or be great by vndermining. Sir, I am ascertained that all these imperfections I speak of in you haue their naturall reliance. I see in your face, that you wer born with the swallow to feed flying, to get much treasure and honor by trauell. None so fit as you for so important an enterprise: our vulgar politicians are but flies swimming on the streame of subtiltie superficially in comparison of your singularitie, their blinde narrow eyes cannot pierce into the profundity of hypocrisie, you alone with Palamed, can pry into Vlisses mad counterfeting, you can discerne Achilles from a chamber maide, though he be deckt with his spindle and distaffe: as Ioue dining with Licaon could not bee beguiled with humane flesh drest like meate, so no humane braine may goe beyond you, none beguile you, you gull all, all feare you, loue you, stoup to you. Therfore good sir be ruld by me, stoup your fortune so low, as to bequeath your selfe wholy to this businesse.

This siluer-sounding tale made such sugred harmonie in his eares, that with the sweete meditation, what a more than myraculous polititian he should be, and what kingly promotion shuld come tumbling on him thereby, he could haue found in his hart to haue packt vp hys pipes, and to haue gone to heauen without a bait: yea, hee was more inflamed and rauisht with it, than a yong man called Tauromontanus was with the Phrigian melodie, who was so incensed and fired therwith, that he would needs run presently vpon it, and set a Curtizans house on fire that had angred him.

No remedie there was, but I must help to furnish him with mony I did so, as who will not make his enemie a bridge of gold, to flie by

Verie earnestly he coniurde me to make no man liuing priuie to hys departure, in regard of his place and charge, and on his honor assured me, his returne should be verie short and successfull. I, I, short by the necke (thought I) in the meane time let this be thy posie, I liue in hope to scape the rope.

Gone he is, God send him good shipping to Wapping, and by this time if you will, let him be a pittiful poore fellow, and vndone for euer: for mine own part, if he had bin mine own brother, I could haue haue done no more for him than I did, for straight after his back was turnd I went in all loue and kindnes to the Marshall generall of the field, & certifide him that such a man was lately fled to the Enemie, & got his place begd for another immediately: what became of him after you shall heare. To the Enemie he went and offred his seruice, raylingegregiously against the King of England, he swore as he was a Gentleman and a soul dier, he would be reuenged on him: and let but the King of France follow his counsel, he would driue him from Turwin wals yet ere three daies to an end. All these were good humors, but the tragedie followeth. The French King hearing of such a prating fellow that was come, desired to see him, but yet he feared treson, wilking one of his Opinions to take vpon him his person, & he wold stand by as a priuate person while he was examined, Why should I vse a nie idle delaies? In was Captaine gogs wounds brought, after hee was throughly searched, not a louse in his doublet was let passe, but was askt Queuen, and chargd to stand in the kings name, the molds of his buttons they turnd out, to see if they were not bullets couered ouer with thes, the cod-peece in his diuels breeches (for they wer then in fashion) they said plainly was a case for a pistol: if he had had euer a hob-naile in his shoes it had hangd him, and hee should neuer haue known who had harmd him, but as lucke was, he had no myte of any mettall about him, he toke part with none of the foure Ages, neyther the golden Age, the siluer Age, the brazen nor the yron Age, onely his purse was aged in emptines, and I think verily a puritane, for it kept it selfe from any pollution of crosses. Standing before the supposed King, he was askt what he was, and wherefore he came? To which, in a glorious bragging humor he answered, that he was a gentleman a tapten commander, a chiefe leader, that came from the King of England vpon discontentment. Questiond of the perticular cause, he had not a word to blesse himselfe with, yet faine he would haue patcht out a polt-foot tale, but (God knowes) it had not one true leg to stand on. Then began he to swell on the tiltyard so rammishly, that non-

yere but was ready to rent him in pieces, yet the Minion King kept in his choler, and propounded vnto him further, what of the King of Englands secrets (so aduantageable) he was privy to, as might remoue him from the siege of Turwin in three daies. He said diuerse, diuerse matters, which aske longer conference, but in good honesty they were lies, which he had not yet stampt. Hereat the true King stept forth, and commaunded to lay hands on the Lozell, and that he should be tortured to confesse the truth, for he was a spie and nothing else.

He no sooner sawe the wheele and the torments set before him, but he cryde out like a Rascall, and said he was a poore Captaine in the English Campe, suborned by one Iacke VVilton (a Noble mans Page) and no other, to come and kill the French King in a brauerie and returne, and that he had no other intention in the world.

This confession could not chuse but moue them all to laughter, in that he made it as light a matter to kill their King and come backe, as to goe to Islington and eate a messe of Creame, and come home againe, nay, and besides he protested that he had no other intention, as if that were not inough to hang him.

Adam neuer fell till God made woes, all this could not keepe his ioynts from ransacking on the Wheele, for they vowed either to make him a Confessor or a Martyr with a trice: When still he sung all one song, they told the King he was a fole, and that some shrowd head had knauishly wrought on him, wherefore it should stand with his honour to whip him out of the Campe and send him home. That perswasion toke place, and soundly was he lasht out of their liberties, and sent home by a Herrald with this message, that so the King his Master hoped to whip home all the English foles very shortly: answere was returned, that that shortly, was a long-lie, and they were shrewd foles that should driue the French-man out of his Kingdome, and make him glad with Corinthian Dionisius to play the Schoolemaister.

The Herrald being dismist, our afflicted Intelligencer was calde coram nobis, how he sped iudge you, but something he was adiudged to. The sparrow for his lechery liueth but a yeare, he for his trechery was turnd on the toe, Plura dolor prohibet.

Here let me triumph a while, and ruminate a line or two on the excellence of my wit, but I will not breath neither till I haue disfraughted all my knauerie.

Another Souldier Captaine that was farre gone for want of the

wench, I lead astray most notoriously, for he being a meere ruffe enthusiast of battle-axes (as one that cared not in his anger to bid fiue out scuttels to fiue score of them) and a notable embowieler of quart pots, I came disguised vnto him in the forme of a halfe crowne wench, my gowne and attyre according to the custome then in request. Iwis I had my curtles in one or in quart pot rather, for they drude into the verie entrailes of the dust, and I simpered with my countenance like a porredge pot on the fire when it first begins to fathe. The sobriety of the circumstance is, that after hee had courted mee and all, and giuen me the earnest-penie of impietie, some fiue Crownes at the least for an antipast to iniquitie, I fained an impregnable excuse to be gone and neuer came at him after.

Yet left I not here, but committed a little more scutcherie. A companie of roystrell Clearkes (who were in hand with Sathan, and not of anie Souldiers collar nor hat-band) pinckt a number of good mindes to God-ward of their prouant. They would not let a dram of dead-pay ouer-slip them, they would not lend a groat of the weeke to come, to him that had spent his money before this weeke was done. They out-faced the greatest and most magnanimious Seruitors in their sincere and sinigraphicall cleane shirts and cuffes. A Lowce (that was anie Gentlemans companion) they thought scorne of, their nere-shitten beards must in a deuills name bee dewed euerye day with Rose-water, Yegges could haue nere a haire on their backs for making them rubbing-brushes to rouse their Crab-lice. They would in no wise permit that the moates in the Sun-beames should be full mouthd beholders of their cleane phinifide apparel, their shoes shined as bright as a slike-stone, their hands troubled & foyled more water with washing, than the Cammell doth, that neuer drinkes till the whole streame be troubled. Summarily, neuer anie were so fantasticall the one halfe as they.

My maisters, you may conceaue of me what you list, but I thinke confidently I was ordained Gods scourge from aboue for their daintie finicalitie. The houre of their punishment could no longer be proroged, but vengeance must haue at them, at all aventures. So it was, that the most of these aboue-named goose-quill Braggadoches, were mere cowards and craauens, and durst not so much as throwe a pen-full of inke into the Enemies face, if proffe were made: wherefore on the experience of their pusillanimitie I thought to raise the fountaine of my roguerie.

where they lay, to try how they would stand to their tackling; and with a pittifull out-crie warned them to flie, for there was treason a foote, they were inuironed and beset. Vpon the first watch worde of treason that was giuen; I thinke they betooke them to their heeles verie stoutly, left their penne and inke-hornes and paper behinde them, for spoile resigned their deskes; with the money that was in them to the mercie of the vanquisher, and in fine, left me and my fellowes (theeues for sole-catchers) Lordes of the field: How wee dealt with them, their disburdened deskes cannie beste tell, but this I am assured, we cured the better for it a fortnight of fasting dayes after.

I must not place a volume in the precincts of a pamphlet: sleepe an houre or two, and dreame that Turney and Turwin is wonne, that the King is shipt againe into England, and that I am close at harde meate at Windsore or at Hampton Court. What will you in your indifferent opinions allow me for my trauell, no more signifie ouer the Pages than I had before? yes, whether you will part with so much probable friendly suppose or no, Ile haue it in spite of your hearts. For your instruction and godly consolation, bee informed, that at that time I was no common squire, no vndertrodden torch-bearer, I had my feather in my cap as big as a flag in the fore-top, my French dublet gelte in the bellie as though (like a pigeeadie to be fytted) all my guts had bin plucht out, a paire of side pinked hose that hung downe like two scales filled with Hell and chaos: my longe stock that sate close to my docke, and smothered not a scab or a leacherous hairie sinew on the calfe of the legge, my rapier pendant like a round sticke fastned in the tacklings for skippers the better to climbe by, my cape cloake of blacke cloth, ouer-spreading my backe like a thorne-backe, or an Elephantes eare, that hanges on his shoulders like a countrie huswifes bantam, which she thinkes sits spindle on, & in consummation of my curiositie, my hands without gloues, all a more French, and a blacke budge edging of a beard on the vpper lip, & the like sable anglet of excrements in the riuing of the anckle of my chinne. I was the first that brought in the order of passing into the Court which I deriued from the common word Qui passa, and the Heralds phrase of armes Passant, thinking in sinceritie, he was not a Gentleman, nor his armes currant, who was not first past by the Pages. If anie Prentile or other came into the Court that was not a Gentleman, I thought it was an indignitie to the preheminence of the Court to include such a one, and could not bee salude except wee

Besides, in Spaine, none passe into Barre bay but he must be examined what he is, and giue three pence for his passe.

In former times it was considered of by the common table of the Nobearers, what a perilous thing it was to let anie stranger or out dweller approch so neare the precincts of the Prince, as the greate Chamber, without examining what hee was, and giuing him his passe, whereupon we all subscribed the like order, but take no mony of them as they do, onely for a signe that he had not past our hands vnexamined, we set a red marke on their eares, and so let them walke as authentikall.

I must not discouer what waggish dealing we had with the blacke iackes, or how oft I was crowned King of the Drunkards with a Court cuppe, let mee quietly listen to the wayning of my youthfull dates, and tell a little of the sweating sickenes, that made me in a cold sweate take my heeles and runne out of England.

This sweating sickenes, was a disease that a man then might catch & neuer goe to a hot-house. Many Maisters desire to haue such seruants as would worke till they sweate againe, but in those dayes hee that sweate neuer wrought againe. That Scripture then was not thought to were false, which sayes, Eate thy liuing with the sweat of thy browes, for then they earned their dying with the sweat of their browes. It was inough if a fat man did but trusse his points, to turne him ouer the pearch: Mother Cornelius tub why it was like hell, he that came into it, neuer came out of it.

Cookes that stand continually basting their faces before the fire, were now all cashiered with this sweat into kitchin stuffe: their hall fell into the Kings hands for want of one of the trade to vp hold it.

Felt makers and Furriers, what the one with the hot steame of their woll new taken out of the pan, and the other with the contagious heat of their slaughter bouge and conny-skinnes, died more thicke than of the pestilence: I haue seene an old woman at that season hauing three chins, wipe them all away one after another, as they melted to water, and left her selfe nothing of a mouth but an vpper chap. Looke how in May or the heat of Summer we lay butter in water for feare it should melt away, so then were men faine to wet their clothes in water as Diers do, and hide themselues in welles from the heat of the Sunne.

Then happie was he that was an asse for nothing will kill an asse but colde, and none dide but with extreame heate. The fishers called fast seasons, that burnelone another by excessiue heate. In re-

not so contagious as one man that had the Sweate was to another. Mazons paid nothing for baize to mine their lyne, nor Glouers to cluske their balls with, for then they had it for nothing, it vexed all mens heads and beards faster than anie Barber could shaue it. If haire breeches had then been in fashion, what a fine world had it beene for Tailers, and so it was a fine world for Tailers nenertheless, for he that could make a garment sleightest and thinnest carried it away: Cutters I can tell you then stood vpon it to dominate their Trade one of the twelue Companies, for who was it then that would not haue his dublet cut to the skin, and his shirt cut into it too, to make it more cold. It was as much as a mans life was worth ones to name a fresse ierkin, it was hye treason for a fat goose to come within fiue miles of the Court. I heard where they dyde vp all in one Familie, and not a mother childe escapde, insomuch as they had but an Irish rugge lockt vp in a presse, and not laid vpon anie bed neither, if those that were sicke of this maladie slept of it, they neuer wakde more. Phisitions with their simples, in this case were simple fellowes, and knew not which way to beginne them.

Galen might goe thoue the Bander for any good he could do, his Secretaries had so long called him Diuine, that now he had lost all his vertue vpon earth. Hippocrates might well helpe Almanacke-makers, but here he had not a word to say: a man might sooner catch the sweate with plodding after him to no end, than cure the sweate with anie of his impotent principles. Paracellus with his Spirite of the Butterie, and his Spirites of Minerals, could not so much as saye, God amend him to the matter; Plus erat in artifice quam in arte, there was more infection in the Phisition himselfe than his arte could cure. This Mortalitie first began amongst old men, for they taking a pride to haue their breasts hose hacked with tedious beards, kept their houses so hot with their hayry excrements, that not so much but their warie walls sweat out salt-peter, with the smothering perfumme: nay a number of them had mercuriall hot breaths, which sticking in their briers of their bushie beards, could not chuse, but (as close aire long imprisoned) ingender corruption.

Wiser was our Brother Banke of these latter dates, who made his ingling hold a Cat, for feare if at anie time hee should cough, the Cake sticking in his thicke bushie taile might be noysome to his Auditors. Should I tell you how manie Pursenants with red noses, and Sergeants with precious faces shrunke away in this Sweate, you would not beleeue me. Euen as the Salamander with his touch

blaketh apples on the trees: so a Pursenant or a Sergeant at this present, with the verie reflere of his fierie facies, was able to spoyle a man a farre of. In some places of the world there is no shaddowe of the Sunne, Diebus illis if it had been so in England, the generation of Brute had died all and some. To knit vp this description in a pursnet, so feruent & scorching was the burning aire which inclosed them, that the most blessed man then aliue, would haue thought that God had done fairly by him, if hee had turnd him to a Goate, for Goates take breath not at the mouth or nose onely, but at the eares also.

Take breath how they would, I vowd to tarrie no longer among them. As at Turwin I was a demy souldier in iest: so now I became a Martialist in earnest. Ouer Sea with my implements I got mee, where hearing the King of France and the Switzers were together by the eares, I made towards them as fast as I could, thinking to thrust my selfe into that Faction, that was strongest. It was my good lucke or my ill (I know not which) to come iust to the fighting of the Battell: where I saw a wonderfull spectacle of blood-shed on both sides, here vnwieldie Switzers wallowing in their goze, like an Ore in his dung, there the sprightly Frenchspraweling and turning on the stained graile, like a Roach new taken out of the streame: all all the ground was strewed as thicke with Battle-axes, as the Carpenters yard with chips, the Plaine appeared like a quaginyre, ouerspred as it were with trampled dead bodies. In one place might you behold a heape of dead murthered men ouerwhelmed with a falling Steede, in stead of a tombe stone: in another place, a bundell of bodies fettered together in their owne bowells: and as the tyrant Romane Emperours vsed to tye condemned liuing captiues face to face to dead corses, so were the halfe liuing here mixt with squeazed carcases long putrified. Anie man might giue Armes that was an actor in that Battell, for there were more armes and legs scattered in the Field that day, than will be gathered vp till Domes-day: the French King himselfe in this Conflict was much distressed, the braines of his owne men sprinkled in his face, thrice was his Courser slaine vnder him, and thrice was he strucke on the brest with a speare: but in the end, by the helpe of the Venetians, the Heluetians or Switzers were subdude, and he crowned a Victor, a peace concluded, and the Citie of Millaine surrendred vnto him, as a pledge of reconciliation.

That Warre thus vlowen ouer, and the seuerall Bands dissolued, e a Crowe that still followes alwse where there is carrion, I flew

nainted Iohn Leiden, kept at that instant against the Emperour and the Duke of Saxonie. Heere I was in good hope to set vpp my staffe for some reasonable time, deeming that no Citie would driue it to a sledge, except they were able to hold out: and pretely well had these Munsterians held out: for they kept the Emperour and the Duke of Saxonie play for the space of a yere, and longer would haue done, but that Dame Famine came amongst them: whereupon they were forst by Messengers to agree vpon a day of Fight, when according to their Anabaptisticall errour they might albe new christened in their owne blood.

That day come, flourishing entred Iohn Leiden the Botcher into the field, with a scarffe made of lysts like a bow-case, a crosse on his breast like a tyred bottome, a round twilted Taylors cushion, buckled like a Tankard-bearers deuice to his shoulders for a target, the pyke whereof was a pack-needle, a tough prentises club for his spear, a great Brauers cow on his backe for a corslet, and on his head for a helmet a huge high shoe with the bottome turnd vpwards, embossed as full of hob-nayles as euer it might sticke: his men were all base handicrafts, as coblers, and currriers and tinkers, whereof some had barres of yron, some hatchets, some cole-staues, some dung-forkes, some spades, some mattockes, some wood-knaues, some addises for their weapons: he that was best prouided, had but a peece of a rustie browne bill brauely fringed with cop-webs to fight for him. Perchance here and there you might see a felow that had a canker-eaten scull on his head, which serued him and his ancestors, for a chamber pot two hundred yeeres, and another that had bene a couple of yron dripping pans armour-wise, to fence his backe and his belly, another that had thrust a paire of drie olde bootes as a breast-plate before his belly of his dublet, because he would not be dangerously hurt: another that had twilted all his trosse full of counters, thinking if the Enemie should take him, he would mistake them for gold, and so saue his life for his money. Merie deuout Asses they were, for all they were so dunstically set forth, and such as thought they knew as much of Gods minde as richer men: why inspiration was their ordinarie familiar, and buzd in their eares like a Bee in a bore euerie hower what newes from heauen, hell, and the land of whipperginnie, displease them who durst, he should haue his mittimus to damnation extempore, they would vaunt there was not a peale difference betwixt them and the Apostles, they were as poore as they, of as base trades

spect of persons, onely herein may seeme some little diuersitie to lurk, that Peter wore a sword, and they count it flat hel fire for anie man to weare a dagger: nay, so grounded and grauelled were they in this opinion, that now when they should come to Battell, theres neuer a one of them would bring a blade (no not an onion blade) about him to dye for it. It was not lawfull said they, for anie man to draw the sword but the Magistrate: and in fidelitie (which I had welnigh forgot) lacke Leiden their Magistrate had the Image or likenes of a péece of a rustie sword like a luskie lad by his side: now I remember mee, it was but a foyle neither, and he wore it, to shew that hee should haue the foyle of his Enemies, which might haue bin an oracle for his two-hand Interpretation. Quid plura? His Battell is pitcht: by pitcht, I doo not meane set in order, for that was farre from their order, onely as Sailers doo pitch their apparell to make it storme proofe, so had most of them pitcht their patcht clothes to make them impearceable: a nerrer way than to be at the charges of armour by halfe. And in another sort he might be said to haue pitcht the Field, for he had pitcht or rather set vp his rest whether to flie if they were discomfited.

Peace, peace there in the belfrie, seruice begins, vpon their knées before they ioine fals Iohn Leiden and his fraternitie verie deuoutly, they pray, they howle, they expostulate with God to grant them victorie, and vse such vnspeakable vehemence, a man would thinke them the onely welbent men vnder heauen. Wherin let me dilate a little more grauely, than the nature of this historie requires, or willbe expected of so yong a practitioner in diuinity: that not those that intermissiuely cry Lord open vnto vs, Lord open vnto vs, enter first into the kingdom, that not the greatest professors haue the greatest portiō in grace, that all is not gold that glisters. When Christ said, the kingdome of heauen must suffer violence, hee meant not the violence of lang babling praiers, nor the violence of tedious inuectiue Sermons without wit, but the violence of faith, the violence of good workes, the violence of patient suffering. The ignorant snatch the kingdome of heauen to themselues with greedines, when we with all our learning sinke into hell.

Where did Peter and Iohn in the third of the Acts, finde the lame cripple but in the gate of the temple called beautifull, in the beautifullest gates of our temple, in the fore-front of professors, are many lame cripples, lame in life, lame in good workes, lame in euerie thing, yet will they alwaies sit at the gates of the temple, none be more forward then they to enter into matters of reformation, yet none mo-

behinde hand to enter into the true Temple of the Lord by the gates of godlife.

You may obiect, that those which I speake against, are more diligent in reading the Scriptures, more carefull to resort vnto Sermons, more sober in their lookes, more modest in their attire, than anie else. But I pray you let me answere you, Doth not Christ say, that before the Latter day the Sunne shall be turned into darknesse, and the Moone into bloud: whereof what may the meaning bee, but that the glorious Sunne of the Gospell shall be eclipsed with the dim cloud of dissimulation, that that which is the brightest Planet of saluation, shall be a meanes of error and darknes: and the Moone shall be turned into blod, those that shine fairest, make the simplest shewe, seeme most to fauour Religion, shal rent out the bowels of the church, be turned into blod, and all this shall come to passe before the notable day of the Lord, whereof this Age is the Eue.

Let me vse a more familiar example, since the heate of a great number outraged so excessiuely. Did not the Diuell lead Christ to the pinacle or highest place of the Temple to tempt him? If he led Christ, he will lead a whole Armie of hypocrites to the top or highest part of the Temple, the highest step of Religion and Holines, to seduce them and subuert them. I say vnto you that which this our tempted Sauiour with manie other words besought his Disciples, Saue your selues from this froward generation. Verily, verily, the seruant is not greater than his master: Verily, verily, sinfull men are not holier than holy Iesus their maker. That holy Iesus again repeates this holy sentence, Remember the words I said vnto you, the seruaunt is not holier nor greater than his Master: as if he should say, Remember then, imprint in your memorie, your pride and singularitie will make you forget them, the effects of them manie yeeres hence will come to passe. Whosoeuer will seeke to saue his soule shall loose it: whosoeuer seekes by headlong meanes to enter into Heauen, and disanull Gods ordinance, shall with the Gyaunts that thought to scale heauen in contempt of Iupiter, be ouer-whelmed with Mount Ossa and Peleon, and dwell with the diuell in eternall desolation.

Though the High Priests Office was expired, when Paul said vnto one of them, God rebuke thée thou painted sepulcher: yet when a standerby reproued him, saying: Reuilest thou the High Priest? he repented and askt forgiuenes.

That which I suppose I doe not grant, the lawfulnes of the au-

be it from my vnder-age arguments should intrude themselues as a greene weake prop to support so high a Building: let it suffice, If you know Christ, you know his Father also: if you know Christianitie, you know the Fathers of the Church also. But a great number of you with Philip haue beene long with Christ, and haue not knowen him, haue long professed your selues Christians, and haue not knowen his true Ministers: you follow the French and Scottish fashion and faction, and in all poynts are like the Switzers, Qui quærunt, cum qua Gente cadunt, that seeke with what Nation they may first miscarrie.

In the dayes of Nero there was an odde Fellowe that had found out an exquisite way to make glasse as hammer-prose as golde: shall I say, that the like experiment he made vpon glasse, wee haue practised on the Gospell: I confidently will, I: Wee haue found out a sleight to hammer it to anie Heresie whatsoeuer. But those furnaces of Falshood, and hammer-heads of Heresie must bee dissolued and broken as his was, or els I feare mée the false glittering glasse of Innouation will bee better esteemed of, than the auncient golde of the Gospell.

The fault of faults is this, that your dead borne faith is begotten by two-two infant Fathers. Cato one of the wisest men in Romane Histories canonised, was not borne till his father was foure score yeres olde: none can be a perfect father of faith and beget men aright vnto God, but those that are aged in experience, haue manie yeres imprinted in their milde conuersation, and haue with Zacheus solde all their possessions of vanities to enioy the sweet fellowship, not of the humane but spirituall Messias.

Ministers and Pastors, fell away your sects and schismes to the decrepite Churches in contention beyond sea, they haue been so long inured to warre, both about matters of Religion and Regiment, that now they haue no peace of minde, but in troubling all other mens peace. Because the pouertie of their Prouinces will allow them no proportionable maintenance for higher callings of ecclesiasticall Magistrates, they would reduce vs to the president of their rebellious persecuted beggerie: much like the sect of Philosophers called Cynikes, who whether they saw they were born to no lands or possessions, nor had any possible meanes to support their estates, but they must liue despised and in misery do what they could, they plotted and consulted with themselues how to make their pouertie better esteemed of than ri-

dominion and soueraignty. The vpshot of their plotting and consultation was this, that they would liue to themselues, scorning the very breath or company of all men, they professe (according to the rate of their lands) voluntarie pouertie, thin fare & lying hard, contemning and inueighing against all those as brute beasts whatsoeuer whome the world had giuen anie reputation for riches or prosperitie. Diogenes was one of the first and formost of the ring-leaders of this rustie austeritie, and he for all his nice dogged disposition, and blunt deriding of worldly drosse, and the grosse seluitie of fooles, was taken notwithstanding a little after verie fairely a coyning mone in his cell: so fares it vpp and downe with our cinicall reformed forraine Churches, thy will digest no grapes of great Bishoprikes forsooth, because they cannot tell how to come by them, they must shape their cotes good men according to their cloath and doe as they may, not as they would, yet they must giue vs leaue here in England that are their honest neighbours, if wee haue more cloth than they, to make our garment some what larger.

What was the foundation or ground-worke of this dismall declining of Munster, but the banishing of their Bishop, their confiscating and casting lots for Church liuinges, as the souldiers cast lottes for Christes garments, and in short tearmes, their making the house of God a den of theeues. The house of God a number of hungrie Church robbers in these dayes haue made a den of theeues. Theeues spend lauishlie what they haue gotten lightly, for ill gotten is no sure inheritance, Dionisius was nere the richer for robbing of Iupiter of his golden coate, hee was driuen in the end to play the Schoolemaster at Corinth. The name of Religion, bee it good or bad that is ruinated, God neuer suffers vnreuenged, Ile say of it as Ouid said of Eunuchs:

> Qui primus pueris genitalia membra recidit,
> Vulnera quæ fecit debuit ipse pati.
>
> Who first deprinde yong boies of their best part,
> With selfe same wounds he gaue he ought to smart,

So would he that first gelt religion or Church-liuings had bin first gelt himselfe or neuer liued, Cardinall Wolsey is the man I aim at; Qui in suas pœnas ingeniosus erat, first gaue others a light to his

owne ouerthrow. How it prospered with him and their instrumentes that after wrought for themselues, Chronicles largely report, though not applie, and some parcell of their punishment yet vnpaid, I doe not doubt but will be required of their posteritie.

To goe forward with my storie of the ouerthrow of that vsurper Iohn Leiden he and all his armie: as I saide before, falling prostrate on their faces, and fervently giuen ouer to praier, determined neuer to ceasse, or leaue soliciting of God, till he had shewed them from heauen some manifest miracle of successe.

Note that it was a generall receiued tradition both with Iohn Leiden and all the crue of Cnipperdolings and Munsers, if God at any time at their vehement outcries and clamors did not condiscend to their requests, to raile on him and curse him to his face, to dispute with him, and argue him of iniustice, for not being so good as his word with them, and to vrge his manie promises in the Scripture against him: so that they did not serue God simplie, but that he should serue their turnes, and after that tenure are manie content to serue as bondmen to saue the danger of hanging: but hee that serues God aright, whose vpright conscience hath for his mot, Amor est mihi causa sequendi, I serue because I loue: he saies, Ego te potius Domine quam tua dona sequar, Ile rather follow thee O Lord, for thine owne sake, than for anie couetous respect of that thou canst doe for me.

Christ would haue no followers, but such as forsake all and follow him, such as forsake all their owne desires, such as abandon all expectations of reward in this world, such as neglected and contemned their liues, their willes and children in comparison of him, and were content to take vp their crosse and follow him.

These Anabaptists had not yet forsake all and followed Christ, they had not forsake their owne desires of reuenge and imcuation, they had not abandoned their expectation of the spoile of their enimies, they regarded their liues, they lookt after their wiues and children, they toke not vp their Crosses of humilitie and followed him, but would crosse him, vpbraid him, and set him at nought, if he assured not by some signe their prayers and supplications. Deteriora sequuntur they followed God as daring him. God heard their praiers, Quod petitur poena est, It was their speedie punishment that they prayde for. Lo according to the summe of their impudent supplications, a signe in the heauens appeard the glorious signe of the raine bowe, which agreed iust with the signe of their ensigne that was a rainbo

Whereupon, assuring themselues of victorie (Miseri quod volunt facile credunt) that which wretches would haue they easely beleeue. With howlings and clamors they presently ranne headlong on their well deserued confusion.

Pittifull and lamentable was their vnpitied and well performed slaughter. To see euen a Beare, (which is the most cruellest of all beasts) two-to bloudily ouer-matcht, and deformedly rent in peeces by an vnconscionable number of curres, it would moue compassion against kinde, and make those that (beholding him at the stake yet vncoapt with) wisht him a sutable death to his vgly shape, now to recall their hard-harted wishes, and moane him suffering as a milde beast, in comparison of the fowle mouthd Mastiues his butchers: euen such compassion did those ouer-matcht vngracious Munsterians obtaine of manie indifferent eyes, who now thought them (suffering) to bee sheepe brought innocent to the shambles, when as before they deemed them as a number of wolues vp in armes against the shepheards.

The Emperialls themselues that were their Executioners (like a father that weepes when he beates his childe, yet still weepes and still beates) not without much ruth and sorrow prosecuted that lamentable massacre, yet drums and trumpets sounding nothing but fearfull reuenge in their eares, made them so eager, that their handes had no leasure to aske counsell of their effeminate eyes, their swordes, their pikes, their bills, their bowes, their caleuers slew, empierced, knockt downe, shot through and ouerthrew as manie men euerie minute of the battell, as there falls eares of corne before the sythe at one blow: yet all their weapons so slaying, empierring, knocking downe, shooting through, ouer-throwing, dissoule-toyned not halfe so manie, as the hailing thunder of the great Ordinance: so ordinarie all euerie foot-step was the imbrument of yron in bloud, that one could hardly discern heads from bullets, or clottred haire from mangled flesh hung with goare.

This tale must at one time or other giue vp the ghost, and as good now as stay longer, I would gladly rid my handes of it cleanly, if I could tell how, for what, with talking of coblers, tinkers, roape-makers, botchers and durt-daubers, the mark is clean out of my Muses mouth, & I am as it were more than diuicified twixt diuinity and poetrie. What is there more as touching this tragedie that you would be resolued of? say quickly, for now is my pen on foote againe. How

 dyed, is that it? He dyde like a dogge, he was hangd e-

the halter paid for. For his companions, doe they trouble you? I can tell you they troubled some men before, for they were all kild, & none escapt; no not so much as one to tell the tale of the rainebow. Beare what it is to be Anabaptists, to be Puritans, to be villaines, you may bee counted illuminate botchers for a while, but your end will bee God people pray for vs.

With the tragicall catastrophe of this Munsterian conflict, did I cashier the new vocation of my canaliership. There was no more honorable wars in christendome then towards, wherefore after I had learned to be halfe an houre in bidding a man boniure in Germane simonimas, I trauelled along the countrie towards England as fast as I could.

What with wagons and bare tentoes hauing attained to Middleborough (good Lord see the changing chances of vs knights arrant in-fants) I met with the right honorable Lord Henrie Howard Earle of Surrey my late master, Iesu I was perswaded I should not bee more glad to see heauen than I was to see him, O it was a right noble Lord, liberalitie it selfe, (if in this yron age there were any such creature as liberalitie left on the earth) a Prince in content because a Poet without peere.

Destinie neuer defames hir selfe but when thee lets an excellent Poet die, if there bee anie sparke of Adams Paradizd perfection yet imbred vp in the breasts of mortall men, certainelie God hath bestowed that his perfectest image on Poets. None come so neere to God in wit, none more contemne the world, Vatis auarus non temere est animus, sayth Horace, versus amat, hoc studet vnum, Seldom haue you seene anie Poet possessed with auarice, only verses he loues, nothing else he delights in: and as they contemne the world, so contrarilie of the mechanicall world are none more contemned. Despised they are of the worlde, because they are not of the world: their thoughts are exalted aboue the worlde of ignorance and all earthly conceits.

As sweet Angelicall queristers they are continually conuersant in the heauen of Arts, heauen it selfe is but the highest height of knowledge, he that knowes himselfe & all things else, knowes the meanes to be happie: happie, thrice happie are they whom God hath doubled his spirite vppon, and giuen a double soule vnto to be Poets.

My Heroicall Master exceeded in this supernaturall kinde of wit, he entertained no grosse earthly spirite of auarice, nor weake wo-

manly spirite of pusillanimitie and feare that are tained to bee of the water, but admirable, airie, and fierie spirites, full of freedome, magnanimitie and bountihood. Let me not speake anie more of his accomplishments, for feare I spend all my spirits in praising him and leaue my selfe no vigor of wit, or effects of a soule to goe forward with my historie.

Hauing thus met him I sa much adored, no interpleading was there of opposite occasions, but backe I must returne and beare halfe stakes with him in the lotterie of trauell. I was not altogether vnwilling to walke a long with such a good purse-bearer. yet musing what changeable humor had so soddainely seduced him from his native soyle to seeke out needlesse perils in those parts beyond sea, one night verie boldly I demaunded of him the reason that moued him thereto.

Ah quoth he, my little Page, full little canst thou perceiue how farre Petamorphozed I am from my selfe, since I last saw thee. There is a little God called Loue, that will not bee worshipt of anie leaden braines, one that proclaimes himselfe sole King and Emperour of pearcing eyes, and cheefe Soueraigne of soft hearts, vnder his that exercising his Empire in my eyes, hath eroziued and cleane conuiured me from my content.

Thou knowst Stately Geraldine, too stately I feare for mee to doe homage to her statue or shrine, she it is that is come out of Italie to bewitch all the wise men of England, vppon Queene Katherine Dowager she waites, that hath a dowrie of beautie sufficient to make hir woed of the greatest Kinges in Christendome. Her high exalted sunne beames haue set the Phenix neast of my breast on fire, and I my selfe haue brought Arabian spiceries of sweet passions and praises, to furnish out the funerall flame of my follie. Those who were condemned to be smothered to death by sincking downe into the softe bottome of an high built bedde of Roses, neuer dide so sweet a death as I shoulde die, if hir Rose coloured disdaine were my deathesman.

Oh thrice Emperiall Hampton Court, Cupids inchaunted Castle, the place where I first sawe the perfecte omnipotence of the Almightie expressed in mortalitie, tis thou alone, that tithing all other men solace in thy pleasant situation, affordest mee nothinge but an excellent begotten sorrow out of the cheefe treasurie of all thy recreations.

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Deare Wilton vnderstand that there it was where I first set eie on my more than celestiall Geraldine. Seeing her I admired her, all the whole receptacle of my sight was vnhabited with her rare worth. Long lute and vncessant protestations got me the grace to be entertained. Did neuer vnlouing seruant so prentiselike obey his neuer pleased Mistris, as I did her. My life, my wealth, my friendes, had all their destinie depending on hir command.

Vpon a time I was determined to trauell the fame of Italy, and an especiall affection I had vnto Petrie my second Mistris, for which Italy was so famous, had wholy rauisht me vnto it. There was no dehortment from it, but neds thether I would, wherefore comming to my Mistris as she was then walking with other Ladies of estate in paradice at Hampton Court, I most humbly besought her of fauour, that she would giue mee so much gratious leaue to absent my selfe from her seruice, as to trauell a yeare or two into Italy. She verie discreetly answered me that if my loue were so hot as I had often auouched, I did verie well to applie the plaister of absence vnto it, for absence as they say, causeth forgetfulnesse: yet neuertheless since it is Italy my native countrie you are so desirous to see, I am the more willing to make my will yours. I pete Italian, goe and seeke Italie with Aeneas, but bee more true than Aeneas, I hope that kinde wit-cherishing climate will worke no change in so wittie a breast. No Countrie of mine shall it be more, if it conspire with thee, in any new loue against mee. One charge I will giue thee, and let it bee rather a request than a charge: When thou commest to Florence (the faire Cittie from whence I fetcht the pride of my birth) by an open challenge defende my beautie against all commers.

Thou hast that honourable carryage in Armes, that it shall bee no discredite for me to bequeath all the glorie of my beautie to thy well gouerned Arme. Faine would I bee knowne where I was borne, faine would I haue thy knowen where faine sits in her chiefest Theater. Farewell forget me not, continued deserts will eternize me vnto thee, thy wishes shall bee expired when thy trauell shall bee once ended.

Here dip teares step out beforewords, and intercepted the course of my kinde conceiued speech, euen as winde is allayed with raine: with heart scalding sighes I confirmed her parting request, and vowed my selfe hers, while liuing breate allowed mee to bee mine owne.

Hinc illæ lachrimæ, here hence proceedeth the whole cause of my peregrination.

Not a little was I delighted with this vnexpected loue sooze, especially from a mouth out of which was nought wont to march but sterne precepts of grauetie & modestie. I sweare vnto you I thought his companie the better by a thousand crownes, because hee had discarded those nice tearmes of chastitie and continencie. Now I beseech God loue me so well as I loue a plaine dealing man, earth is earth, flesh is flesh, earth will to earth, and flesh vnto flesh, fraile earth, fraile flesh, who can keepe you from the worke of your creation.

Dismissing this fruitles annotation pro et contra, towards Venice we progressed, and toke Roterdam in our waie, that was cleane out of our waie, there we met with aged learnings chiefe ornament, that abundant and superingenious clarke Erasmus, as also with merrie Sir Thomas Moore our Countriman, who was come purposelie ouer a little before vs, to visite the said graue father Erasmus: what talke, what conference wee had then, it were here superfluous to rehearse, but this I can assure you, Erasmus in all his speeches seemed so much to mislike the indiscretion of Princes in preferring of parasite and fooles, that he decreed with himselfe to swim with the stream, and write a booke forthwith in commendation of follie. Quick witted Sir Thomas Moore trauelo in a cleane contrarie prouince, for he seeing most common-wealths corrupted by ill custome, & that principalities were nothing but great piracies, which gotten by violence and murther, were maintained by priuate undermining and bloudshed, that in the cheefest flourishing kingdomes there was no equall or well deuided weale one with a nother, but a manifest conspiracie of rich men against poze men, procuring their owne vnlawfull commodities vnder the name and interest of the common-wealth: hee concluded with himselfe to lay downe a perfect plot of a common-wealth or gouernment, which he would intitle his Vtopia.

So left we them to prosecute their discontented studies, and made our next iourney to Wittenberg.

At the verie pointe of our enterance into Wittenberg, we were spectators of a verie solemne scholasticall entertainment of the Duke of Saxonie thether. Whome because hee was the chiefe Patrone of their Vniuersitie, and had toke Luthers parte in banishing the Masse and all like papal iurisdiction out of their towne, they crouch vnto extreamely.

The chiefe ceremonies of their intertainment were these: first, the heads of their vniuersitie (they were great heads of certaintie) met him in their hooded hypocrisie and doctorly accoutrements, secundum formam statui, where the orator of the vniuersitie, whose pickthreuant was verie plentifully besprinkled with rose water, a verie learned or rather ruthfull oration was deliuered (for it rained all the while) signifieng thus much, that it was all by patch & by peecemeale stolne out of Tully, and he must pardon them, though in emptying their phrase bookes the world emptied his intrailes, for they vsd it not in any ostentation of wit (which God knowes they had not) but to shew the extraordinarie good will they bare the Duke, (to haue him stand in the raine till he was thorough wet) a thousand quemadmodums and quapropters he came ouer him with, euery sentence he concluded with Esse posse videatur; through all the nine worthies he ran with prayking and comparing him, Nestors yeares he assured him of, vnder the braode seale of their supplications, and with that crowne trosen verse in Virgil, Dum iuga montes aper, hee packt vp his pipes and cride dixi.

That pageant ouerpast, there ruisht vpon him a miserable rablement of iunior graduats, that all cride vppon him mightily in their gibrige lyke a companie of beggers, God saue your grace, God saue your grace, Jesus preserue your Highnesse, though it be but for an houre. Some threw balfe penyworth of Latine here also had he throwen at his face, but it was choise stuffe I can tell you, as there is a choice euen amongest ragges gathered vp from the dunghill. At the townes end met him the burgers and dunsticall incorporations of Wittenberg in their distinguished liueries, their distinguished liuerie faces I meane, for they were most of them hot liuered dronkards, and had all the coate colours of sanguine, purple, crimson, copper, carnation, that were to be had in their countenances. Filthie knaues, no roft had they beftowed on the towne for his welcome, sauing new painted their boughs and bousing houses, which commonly are fairer than their churches, and ouer their gates set the towne armes carouling a whole health to the Dukes armes, which sounded gulping after this sorte, Manhotten, flotten, ick blodhen glotten gelderstike: what euer the words were, the sense was this, God drinke is a medicine for all diseases.

A burstenbelly inkhorne orator called Vanderkulke, they picke out to present him with an oration, one that had a sulpherous bi-

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swolne large face, like a Saracen, eyes lyke two beetle oppers, a mouth that opened as wide euery time he spake, as one of those old knit tray boxes, a beard as though it had ben made of a birds neast pluckt in peeces, which consisteth of strawe, haire, and durt mixt together. He was apparelled in blacke leather new licoured, & a short gowne without anie gathering in the backe, faced before and behinde with a boistrous bears skin, and a red night-cap on his head. To this purport and effect was this breeching duble beare oration. Right noble Duke (ideo nobilis quasi no bilis (for you haue no bile or colar in you, know that our present incorporation of Wittenberg, by me the tongue man of their thanksgiuings, a townesman by birth, a free Germane by nature, an orator by arte, and a fortuner by education, in all obedience & chastity, most bountifully bid you welcome to Witenberg: welcome sayd I, O rificiatretrix like wipe thy euerlasting mouth, and affoord me a more Iusian metaphor than that for the braue princely blood of a Saxon. Diatorize vncake the hard hutch of thy complements, and with the triumphantest troupe in thy treasurie doe trespasse vnto him. What impotent speech with his eight partes may not specifie this vnestimable gift holding his peace, shall as it were (with teares I speak it) od vbertim as it may seeme or appeare, to manifest or declare. and yet it is, and yet it is not, and yet it may be a diminitiue oblation meritorious to your high pusillanimitie and indignitie. Why should I goe gadding and figgigging after firking flantado amfibologies, wit is wit, and good will is good will. With all the wit I haue, I here according to the premises, offer vp vnto your the cities generall good will, which is a gilded Can, in manner and forme following, for you and the heirs of your bodis lawfully begotten, to drinke healths in. The scholasticall squitter bookes clout you vp cannopies and fatterclothes of verses. We that are good fellowes, and liue as merry as cup and can, will not verse vpon you as they doe, but must do as we can, and entertaine you if it bee but with a plaine emptie Canne. He hath learning inough, that hath learnde to drinke to his first man.

Gentle Duke, without parador bee it spoken, thy horses at our owne proper costes and charges shall knead vp to the knees all the while thou art here in spruce beere and lubecke licour. Not a dogge thou bringest with thee but shall bee banketted with rhenish wine and Burgion. On our houlders we weare no lambe skinns or mi-

ninuer like those academikes, yet heer can drinke to the confusion of thy enemies. Godlands woll haue we for their lambe skins, and for their minuer, large minerals in our coffers. Mechanicall men they call vs, and not amisse, for most of vs being Marchi, that is cuckholdes and whoore-maisters, fetch our antiquitie from the temple of Marcha, where Mahomet was hung vp. Three parkes of the worlde America, Affrike and Asia, are of this our mechanike religion. Nero when he cried O quamus artifex pereo, profest himselfe of our fredome. Insomuch as Artifex is a citizen or crafts man, as well as Carnifex a scholler or hangman. Passe on by leaue into the precincts of our abhomination. Monte Duke frolike in our boure, and perswade thy selfe, that euen as garlike hath three properties, to make a man winke, drinke, and stinke, so we will winke on thy imperfections, drinke to thy fauorites, and al thy foes shall stinke before vs. So be it. Farewell.

The Duke laught not a little at this ridiculous oration, but that verie night as great an ironicall occasion was minisired, for he was bidden to one of the chiefe schooles to a Comedie handled by scollers. Acolastus the prodigal child was the name of it, which was so filthily acted, so leatherly set forth, as would haue moued laughter in Heraclitus. One as if he had ben playning a clay floore stamped trode the stage so harde with his feete, that I thought verily he had resolued to do the Carpenter that set it vp same vtter shame. Another slong his armes lyke cudgels at a peare tree, insomuch as it was mightily dreaded that he wold strike the candles that hung aboue their heades out of their sockettes, and leaue them all darke. Another did nothing but winke and make faces. There was a parasite, and he with slapping his handes and thrusting his fingers seemed to dance an antike to and fro. The onely thing they did well, was the prodigall childs hunger, most of their scholliers being hungerly kept, & surely you would haue sayd they had bin brought vp in hogs academie to learne to eate acornes, if you had seene how sedulously they fell to them. Not a least had they to keepe their auditors from sleeping but oft will and drafte, yea nowe and then the seruant put his hand into the dish before his maister, & almost choke himselfe, eating so greedily and rauenously to cause sport.

The next daie they had solempne disputations, where Luther and Carolostadius scolded lewell coyle. A masse of wordes I wote well they heaped vp against the masse and the Pope, but

farther particulars of their disputations I remember not. I thought verily they would haue worried one another with words, they were so earnest and vehement. Luther had the louder voyce, Carolostadius went beyond him in beating and bounsing with his fists, Quæ supra nos nihil ad nos. They vttered nothing to make a man laugh, therefore I will leaue them. Mary their outward actions would now and then affoord a man a morsel of mirth of those two I meane not so much, as of all the other traine of opponents & respondents. One pickt with his fore-finger at euerie haile fellow he brought forth, and nodded with his nose like an olde singing man, teaching a yong quirister to keepe time. Another would be sure to wipe his mouth with his handkercher at ye ende of euery ful point, and euer when he thought he had cast a figure so curiously, as he drawes ouer head and eares into his auditors admiration, hee would take occasion to stroke vp his haire, and twine vp his muskachies twice or thrice ouer while they might haue leasure to applaud him. A third waued & wagled his head, like a proud horse playing with his bridle, or as I haue seene some fantasticall Trommer, at euerie stroke traine his chin side-long ouer his left shoulder. A fourth sweat and foamed at the mouth, for verie anger his aduersarie had denied that part of the Illogisme which he was not prepared to answere. A fifth spread his armes, like an vsher that goes before to make rome, and thrist with his finger and his thumbe when he thought he had tickled it with a conclusion. A sixt hung downe his countenaunce like a sheepe, and stutted and slauered very pittifully when his inuention was kept aside out of the way. A seuenth gaspt for winde, & groned in his pronunciation as if hee were hard bound with some bad argument. Grosse plodders they were all, that had some learning and reading, but no wit to make vse of it. They imagined the Duke tooke the greatest pleasure and contentment vnder heauen to heare them speake Latine, and as long as they talkt nothing but Tully he was bound to attend them. A moste vaine thing it is in many vniuersities at this daie, that they count him excellent eloquent who stealeth not whole pages, but whole phrases out of Tully. If of a number of shreds of his sentences he can shape an oration, from all the world he carries it awaie, although in truth it be no more than a fooles coat of many colours. No inuention or matter haue they of their owne, but tack vp a stile of his stale gabymaskries. The leaden headed Germanes first began this, and we Englishmen haue fur-

fetted

fetles of their absurd imitation. I pitie Nizolius that had nothing to do, but picke thrids ends out of an olde ouerworne garment.

This is but by the waie, we must looke back to our disputants. One amongest the rest thinking to bee more conceited than his fellowes, seeing the Duke haue a dog he loued well, which sate by him on the tarras, conuerted al his oration to him, and not a haire of his tayle but he kembd out with comparisons: so to haue courted him if he were a bitch had bin verie iuspitious. Another commented and descanted on the Dukes staffe, new tipping it with many quaint epithites. Some cast his nativitie, and promised him hee shoulde not die vntill the day of iudgement. Omitting further superfluityes of this stampe, in this generall assembly we found intermixed that abundant scholler Cornelius Agrippa. At that time he bare the fame to be the greatest conjurer in christendome. Scoto that dyd the iugling tricks before the Quéene, never came nére him one quarter in magicke reputation. The Doctors of Wittenberg doting on the rumor that went of him, desired him before the Duke and them to doe some thing extraordinarie memorable.

One requested to sée pleasant Plautus, and that hee would shewe them in what habit he went, and with what countenaunce he spake when he ground corne in the mil. Another had halfe a months mind to Ouid and his hooke nose. Erasmus who was not wanting in that honorable meeting, requested to sée Tully in that same grace and maiestie he pleaded his oration pro Roscio Amerino. Affirming, that til in person he beheld his importunitie in pleading, hee would in no wise bee perswaded that anie man could carrie awaye a manifest case with rethorike so strangely. To Erasmus petition he easily condescended, & willing the doctors at such an houre to hold their conuocation, and euery one to kéepe him in his place without mouing: at the time prefixed in entered Tullie, ascended his pleading place, and declaimed verbatim the forenamed oration, but with such astonishing amazement, with such feruent exaltation of spirit, with such soule-stirring iestures, that all his auditours were readie to install his guiltie client for a God.

Great was the concourse of glorie Agrippa drewe to him wyth this one feate. And in déede hée was so cloyed with men which came to beholde him, that he was fayne sooner than he would, to returne to the Emperours court from whence he came, and leaue Wittenberg before he would. With him we trauelled along, hauing pur-

chalk his acquaintance a litle before. By the waie as we went, my maister and I agreed to change names. It was concluded betwixte vs, that I should be the Earle of Surrie, and he my man, onely because in his owne person, which hee would not haue reproched, he meant to take more liberty of behauior: as for my cariage, he knew hee was to tuene it at a key, either high or low, as he list.

To the Emperours court wee came, where our entertainment was euery way plentiful, carouses we had in whole galons in stead of quart pots. Not a health was giuen vs but contained well neere a hogshead. The customes of the countrie we were eager to bee instructed in, but nothing wee could learne but this, that euer at the Emperours coronation there is an ore roasted with a flag in the belly, and that flag in his belly hath a kid, and that kid is stufte full of birds. Some courtiers to wearie out time, would tell vs further tales of Cornelius Agrippa, and howe when sir Thomas Moore our countryman was there, he shewed him the whole destruciō of Troy in a dreame. How the Lord Cromwell being the kings Embassador there, in like case in a perspective glasse hee set before his eyes king Henrie the eight, with all his Lordes on hunting in his forrest at Windsore, and when he came into his studie, and was verie vrgent to be partaker of some rare experiment, that he might report when he came into England, he willd him amongest two thousande great bookes to take downe which hee list, and begin to reade one line in anie place, and without booke he would rehearse twentie leaues following. Cromwel did so, and in many bookes tride him, when in euery thing he exceeded his promise and conquered his expectation. To Charles the fift then Emperour, they reported how he shewed the nine worthies, Dauid, Salomon, Gedeon, and the rest in that similitude and likenes that they liued vpon earth. My maister and I hauing by the high waie side gotten some reasonable familiaritie with him, vpon this accesse of myracles imputed to him, resolued to request him somthing in our owne behalfes. I because I was his subscribed Lorde and maister, desired him to see the liuely image of Geraldine his loue in the glasse, and what at that instant she did, and with whome she was talking. He shewed her vs without anie more adoe, sicke weeping on her bed, and resolued all into deuout religion for the absence of her Lord. At the sight thereof he could in no wise refrain, though he had toke vpon him the condition of a seruant, but he must forthwith frame this extemporal dit-

ALL soule, no earthly flesh, why dost thou fade,
All gold, no worthlesse drosse, why lookst thou pale,
Sicknesse how darst thou one so faire inuade,
Too base infirmitie to worke his bale.
Heauen be distemperd since she grieued pines,
Neuer be drie these my sad plaintiue lines.

Pearch thou my spirit on his siluer breasts,
And with their paine redoubled musike beatings,
Let them tosse thee to world where all toile rests,
Where blisse is subiect to no feares defeatings,
Her praise I tune whose tongue doth tune the spheares,
And gets new muses in hir hearers eares.

Starres fall to fetch fresh light from his rich eyes,
Her bright brow driues the Sunne to cloudes beneath,
His haires reflex with red strakes paints the skies,
Sweet morne and euening dewe flowes from her breath,
Phœbe rules tides, she my teares tides forth drawes,
In her sicke bed loue sits and maketh lawes.

His daintie limbs tinsill his silke soft sheets,
His rose-crowned cheekes eclipse my dazeled sight,
O glasse with too much ioy my thoughts thou greets,
And yet thou shewest me day but by twy-light.
Ile kisse thee for the kindnes I haue felt,
His lips one kisse would vnto Nectar melt.

Though the Emperours court, and the extraordinarie edifying company of Cornelius Agrippa might haue bin arguments of waight to haue arested vs a little longer there, yet Italy still stuck as a great meate in my maisters eie, he thought he had trauelled no farther than Wales, till he had tasted many of that countries which was such a curious maister of theirs.

To cut off blind ambages by the high way side, we made long

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riue and got to Venice in short time, where hauing scarse lookt about vs, a precious supernaturall pandor apparelled in all points like a gentleman, & hauing halfe a dosen seuerall languages in his purse, entertained vs in our owne tongue very paraphrastically and eloquently, & maugre all other pretended acquaintance, would haue vs in a violent kinde of curtesie to be the guestes of his appointment. His name was Petro de campo Frego, a notable practitioner in the pollicie of baudrie. The place whether he brought vs was a pernicious curtizãs house named Tabitha the Temptresses, a wench that could set as ciuill a face on it as chastities first martyr Lucrecia. What will you conceit to be in any saints house that was there to seeke? Bookes, pictures, beades, crucifixes, why there was a haberdashers shop of thẽ in euerie chãber. I warrant you should not see one set off her neckercher peruerted or turned awrie, not a piece of a haire displast. In her beds there was not a wrinkle of any wallowing to be found, her pillows bare out as smoth as a groning wines belly, & yet she was a Turke and an infidel, & had more lowings then all her neighbours kyndes. As for our money they vsed like Emperours. I was master as you heard before, & my master the Earle was but as my chiefe man whome I made my companion. So it happened (as iniquitie will out at one time or other) that she perceiuing my expence had no more vents, then it should haue, fel in with my supposed seruant my man, and gaue him half a promise of marriage, if he would help to make me away, that she and he might enioy the iewels and wealth that I had.

The indifficultie of the condition thus she explaind vnto him, her house stood vppon vaultes, which in two hundred yeeres together were neuer searcht, who came into her house none toke notice of, his fellow seruants that knew of his masters abode there, should be all dispatcht by him as from his master, into sundry parts of the citie about busines, and when they returned, answere should be made that he lay not their anye more, but had remoued to Padua since their departure, & thither they must follow him. Now (quoth she) if you be disposed to make him away in their absence, you shall haue my house at commaund. Stab, poyson or shoote him through with a pistol all is one, into the vault he shalbe throwen when the deed is done. On my bare honestie it was a craftie queane, for shee had enacted with her self if he had bin my legitimate seruant, as he was one that serued and supplied my necessities. When he had

murthered me, to haue accused him of the murther, and made all that I had his (as I carried all my maisters wealth, monie, iewels, rings, & bils of exchange continually about me.) He verie subtilly consented to her stratagems at the first motion, kill me hee would, that heauens could not withstand, and a pistoll was the predestinate engine which must deliuer the parting blow. God wot I was a raw yong squier, and my master dealt iudasly with me, for he tolde me but euerie thing that she and he agréed of. Wherefore I could not possibly preuent it, but as a man would saie auoide it. The execution day aspired to his vtmost reuolution, into my chamber came my honorable attendant with his pistoll charged by his side very suspitiously and sullenly, ladie Tabitha and Petro de campo Frego her pandor followed him at the hard heeles.

At their enterance I saluted them all very familiarly and merily, & began to impart vnto thē what disquiet dreams had disturbed mée the last night. I dreamt, quoth I, that my man Brunquell here (for no better name got he of me) came into my chamber with a pistol charged vnder his arme to kill me, and that he was suborned by you mistres Tabitha, and my verie good friend Petro de campo Frego, God send it turne to good, for it hath affrighted mee aboue measure. As they were readie to enter into a coulourable common place of the deceitfull friuolousnes of dreames, my trustie seruant Brunquel stoode quiuering and quaking euerye ioynt of him, as it was before compacted betweene vs, let his pistoll drop from him, on the sodaine, wherewith I started out of my bed, and drew my rapier, and cryde murther, murther, which made good wife Tabitha redie to bepis her.

My seruaunt, or my master, which you will, I tooke roughlie by the coller, and threatned to run him through incontinent if he confest not the truth. He as it were striken with remorse of conscience, (God be with him, for he could counterfeit most daintily) downe on his knées, askt me forgiuenesse, and impeached Tabitha and Petro de campo Frego as guiltie of subornation. I very mildly and grauely, gaue him audience, raile on them I dyd not after his tale was ended, but sayde I would trie what the lawe could doe, Conspiracy by the custome of their countrie was a capitall offence, and what custome or iustice might afforde, they should bee all sure to feele. I could, quoth I, acquite my selfe otherwise, but it is not for a stranger to be his owne caruer in reuenge. Not a word more with Tabitha, but die she would before God or the deuill would haue her, sh

againe, sighed beauily, spoke faintly and pittifully, yea, and so pittifully, as if a man had not knowen the prankes of harlots before, he would haue melted into commiseration. Teares, sighs, and dolefull tuned wordes could not make anie forcible claime to my stonie eares, it was the glittering crownes that I hungred and thirsted after, & with them for all her mocke holy daie features she was faine to come off, before I condescended to anie bargaine of silence. So it fortuned (fie vppon that vnfortunate word of Fortune) that this whoore, this queane, this curtizan, this common of ten thousand, by bribing me not to bewray her, had giuen me a great deal of counterfeit gold, which she had receiued of a coyner to make awaie a little before. Amongst the grosse summe of my briberie, I silly milkesop mistrusting no deceit, vnder an angell of light tooke what shee gaue me, neere turned it ouer, for which (O falsehood in faire shewe) gaue me, neere turned ouer. He that is a knight my master is, I had lyke to haue bin turned ouer. He that is a knight arrant, exercised in the affaires of Ladies and Gentlewomen, hath more places to send money to, than the deuil hath to send his spirits to. There was a delicate wench named Flauia Aemilia lodging in saint Markes street at a goldsmiths, which I would faine haue had to the grand test, to trie whether she were cunning in Alcumie or no. Aie me, she was but a counterfet slip for she not onely gaue me the slip, but had welnigh made me a slipstring. To her I sent my golde to beg an houre of grace, ah graceles fornicatres, my hostesse and shee were confederate, who hauing gotten but one piece of my ill golde in their handes, deuised the meanes to make me immortall. I could drinke for anger till my head akt, to thinke how I was abused. Shall I shame the deuill and speak the truth? To prison was I sent as principal, and my master as accessarie, nor was it to a prison neither, but to the master of the mintes house, who though partlie our iudge, and a most seuere vpright iustice in his own nature, extremelie seemed to condole our ignorant estate, and without all peradventure a present redresse he had ministred, if certaine of our countrymen bearing an English Earle was apprehended for coyning, had not come to visite vs. An ill planet brought them hether, for at the first glance they knew the seruant of my secrecies to be the Earle of Surrie, and I (not worthy to be named I) an outcast of his cuppe or pantofles. Thence, thence sprong the full period of our infelicity. The master of the mint our whilom refresher and consolation, now tooke part against vs, he thought we had a mint in our heads of mis-

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as it was not so (trauens will not alwayes come to witnes where they are cald. To a fraster ward were we committed: that which we haue importunately transgressed must be answered. O the heathen heigh passe, and the intrinsecall leger demaine of our special approued good pander Petro de Campo Frego. He although he dipt in the same dish with vs euerie daie, seeming to labour our cause verie importunatly, & had interpasted for vs to the state from the beginning, yet was one of those treacherous brother Trulies, and abused vs most clarkly. He interpasted to vs with a petitioner, for whereas we stood obstinatly vpon it, we were wrongfully detened, and that it was naught but a malicious practise of sinfull Tabitha our late hostes, he by a fine cunny-catching corrupt translation, made vs plainly to confesse, and crie Mia culpa, vre we had need of our necke-verse. Detestable, detestable, that the flesh and the deuill shoulde deale by their factors, Ile stand to it, there is not a pander but hath bowes paganisme. The deuel himselfe is not such a deuil as he, for he to perform his function aright. He must haue the backe of an asse, the snout of an elephant, the wit of a foxe, and the teeth of a wolfe, he must tune like a spaniell, crouch like a Iew, stare like a shrewsbiter. If he be halfe a puritan, and haue scripture continually in his mouth, the better. I can tell you it is a trade of great promotion, & let none euer thinke to mount by seruice in forain courts, or creep neere to some magnifique Lords, if they be not seene in this science. Why it is the art of arts, and ten thousand times goes beyond the intelligencer. None but a staid graue ciuill man is capable of it, he must haue exquisite courtship in him or else he is not fit who, he wants the best point in his tables. God be mercifull to our pander (and that were for God to worke a miracle) he was seene in all the seuen liberall deadly sciences, not a sinne but he was as absolute in as sathan himselfe. Sathan could neuer haue supplanted vs so as he did. I may saie to you, he planted in vs the first Italionate wit that we had. During the time we lay close and tooke phisick in this castle of contemplation, there was a magnifico wife of good calling sent to beare vs compaule. Her husbands name was Castaldo, she hight Diamante, the cause of her committing, was an vngrounded ielous suspition which her doting husband had conceiued of her chastitie. One Isaac Medicus a bergomask was the man he chose to make him a monster, who being a courtier, and repairing to his house very often, neither for loue of him nor his wife, but only with a drift to borrow money of a paune of wax and parchment, when he saw his exercise

beloued, that Castaldo was to charie for him to close with, he only with purpose of reuenge, gaue out amongest his copesmates, that he reso?ted to Castaldos house for no other end but to cuckolde him, and doubtfully he talkt that he had and he had not obtained his suite. Rings which he bo?rowed of a light curtizan that hee bled to, he would faine to be taken from his fingers, and in summe so handled the matter, that Castaldo exclaimed, Out whore, strumpet, fie perie hackster, away with her to prison.

As glad were we almost as if the dead giuen vs libertie that fortune lent vs such a iouiall pue-fellow. A pretie round fa?re wench was it, with blacke eie browes, a high fo?rehead, a little mouth, and a sharpe nose, as fat marpium euerie part of her as a plouer, a skin as slike and soft as the backe of a swan, it doth me good when I remember her. Like a bird she trips on the ground, and bo?re vp her belly as maiesticall as an Estrich. With a leo?zous rouling eie first piercing on the earth, and sometimes sco?nfully darted on the tone side, she figured fo?th a high discontented disdaine, much like a prince pulling and frowning at the treason of some mightie subiect fled lately out of his power. Her very countenance repiningly wrathfull, and yet clere and vnwrinkled, would haue confirmed the clernes of her conscience to the austerest iudge in the world. If in anie thing she were culpable, it was in being too melancholy chast, and she wing her selfe as couetous of her beautie as hir husband was of his bagge. Many are honest, because they know not howe to bee dishonest, shes thought there was no pleasure in stolne bread, because there was no pleasure in an oldemans bed. It is almost impossible that any woman should be excellently wittie, and not make the best pennie of her beautie. This age and this countrie of ours admits of some miraculous exceptions, but former times are my constant informers. Those that haue quicke motions of wit, haue quicke motions in euerie thing, vpon onely neds many strokes, only vpon wits are not wonne without a long siege of intreatie. Gold easily bends, the most ingenious mindes are easiest mooued. Ingenium nobis molle Thalia dedit, sayth Psapho to Phao. Who hath no merrifull milde mistres, I will maintaine, hath no wittie, but a clownish dull flegmatike puppie to his mistres.

This magnificos wife was a good louing soule, that had mettall inough in her to make a good wit of, but being neuer remoued from vnder her mother and her husbands wing, it was not molded and fashioned as it ought. Causeles distrust is able to driue deceit into a simple

simple womans head. I durst pawne the wedite of a pype, which is worthams ace at all times, that she was immaculate vntill she met with vs in prison, what wanton temptations she had then, when fire and flax were put together, conceit with your selues, but holde my maister excusable. Alacke he was too vertuous to make her vicious, he stood vpon religion and conscience, what a haynous thing it was to subuert Gods ordinance. This was all the intruche he would offer her, sometimes he would imagine her in a melancholy humor to see his Geraldine, and court her in teares to correspondent, nay he would sweare she was his Geraldine, and take her white hand and wipe his eyes with it, as thought the very touch of her might staunch his anguish. Now would he kneele & kisse the ground as holy ground which she vouchsafed to bleste from barrennes by her steppes. Who would haue learned to write an excellent passion, might haue bin a perfect tragick poet, had he but attended halfe the extremitie of his lament. Passion vpon passion would throng one on anothers necke, he would praise her beyond the moone and starres, and that so swéetly and rauishingly, as I perswade my self he was more in loue with his owne curious forming fancie than her face, and truthfully, many become passionate louers, onely to winne praise to their wits.

He praised, he praied, he desired and besought her to pittie him that perisht for her. From this his intranced mistaking extasie could no man remoue him. Who louely resolutely, will include euery thing vnder the name of his loue. From prose hee would leape into verse, and with these or such like rimes assault her.

If I must die, O let me choose my death,
Sucke out my soule with kisses cruell maide,
In thy breasts christall bals embalme my breath,
Dole it all out in sighs when I am laide.
Thy lips on mine like cupping glasses claspe,
Let our tongs meete and strive as they would sting,
Crush out my winde with one strait girting craspe,
Stabs on my heart keepe time whilest thou doest sing.
Thy eyes lyke fearing yrons burne out mine,
In thy faire tresses stifle me outright,
Like Circes change me to a loathsome swine,
So I may liue for euer in thy sight.
Into heauens ioyes none can profoundly see,
Except that first they meditate on thee.

Sadly and verily, if my maister sayde true. I shoulde if I were a wench make many men quickly inamor'd all. What ist, what is't for a maide sayre and fresh to spend a little lip-salue on a hungrie louer, My maister make the bush and hayse a cople and a payring, but I taught the birde simplicitie a cunning snare shall carrie it away in another wayde. God wot he was Petro Desperato, when I stepping to her with a vendible tale made by my market. A holy requiem to their soules that thinke women women with riddles. I hadde some cunning plot yet must suppose, to bring this about. Her husband had abused her, and it was verie necessarie she should be reuenged: seldome doe they preeue patient martyrs who are punisht vniustly, one waie or other they will crie quittance whatsoeuer it cost them. No other apt meanes had this peeuishes captiued Cicely, to worke her beldame husband a vnpatiencable plague for his iealousie, but to giue his head his full loading of infamie. Shee thought shee would make him complaine for some thing, that now was so harde bound with an heretical opinion. How I dealt with her, gesse gentle reader, sith yet that I was in prison, and she my silly Jayler.

Meanes there was made after a moneths or two's durance by M. Iohn Russell, a Gentleman of king Henrie the eights chamber, who then laie Ieger at Venice for England, that our cause should be fauorably heard. At that time was Monsieur Petro Aretino searcher and chiefe Inquisitor to the colledge of curtizans. Diuerse and sundrie waies was this Aretine beholding to the king of England, especially for by this foresayd master Iohn Russell, a little before he had sent him a pension of foure hundred crownes yerely during his life. Merie forcibly was he dealt withall, to straine the vttmost of his credit for our deliuerie out of prison. Nothing at his hands we sought, but that the curtizan might bee more narrowly sifted and examined. Such and so extraordinarie was his care and industrie herein, that within few dayes after mistres Tabitha and her pandor cride Peccaui confiteor, and we were presently discharged, they for example sake executed. Most honorably after our inlargement of the state were we vsed, & had sufficient recompence for all our troubles & wrongs.

Before I goe anie further, let me speake a word or two of this Aretine. It was one of the wittiest knaues that euer God made. If out of so base a thing as mike, there may bee extracted a spirite, hee writ with nought but the spirits of inke, and his stile was the spiritualitie of artes, and nothing else, whereas all others of his age were but the lay temporalties of inkehorne tearmes. For indeede

they were more temporizers and no better then pen-knives that pointed lyke a poinyard, no leafe he wrote on, but was lyke a burning glaffe to set on fire all his readers. With more than musket shot did he charge his quill, where hee most ranne inuetgh. In a houre but hee sent a whole legion of deuils into some heard of swine or other. If Martiall had ten Muses (as he saith of himselfe) when he but tasted a cup of wine, he had ten score when he determined to tyrannize, nere a line of his but was able to make a man monken with admiration. His sight pearst lightning into the entralles of all abuses. This I must needes saie, that most of his learning hee got by hearing the lectures at Florence. It is sufficient that learning he had, and a conceit exceeding all learning, to quintescence euerie thing which hee heard. He was not timerous to rayle flatteringly of the common wealth wherein he lived, his tongue & his inuention were forborne, what they thought they would confidently vtter. Princes hee spared not, that in the least point transgrest. His lyfe he contemned in comparison of the libertie of speech. Whereas some dull brained maligners of his, accuse him of that Treatise, de tribus impostoribus Mundi, which was neuer contriued without a generall counsell of deuils, I am verily perswaded it was none of his, and of my minde are a number of the most iudicial Italians. One reason is this, because it was published fortie yeres after his death, and hee neuer in his lyfe time wrote anie thing in Latine. Certainly I haue heard that one of Machiuels followers and disciples was the author of that booke, who to auoyde discredit, light it forth vnder Aretines name, a great while after he had exhaled vp his eloquent spirit in the graue. Let euerie gall eyed that wormeeaten of Gibeline writes put in his inke, who ingraued that rusticke Epitaph on this excellent poets tombestone. Quite forsaken of all good Angels was he, and vtterly giuen ouer to artlesse cunning. Foure vniuersities honoured Aretine with these titulles, Flagellum principi, Il veridico, Il deuino, & L'vnico Aretino. The French king Frances the first he kept in such awe, that to chaine his tongue he sent him a huge chaine of golde, in the forme of tongues fashioned. Singularly hath he commented of the humanities of Christ. Wellnye, as Moses set forth his Geneus, so hath hee set forth his Genesis also, including the contents of the whole Bible. A notable Treatise hath he compiled called Il sette Psalmi penitentiali. All the Thomasos haue cause to loue him, because he hath dilated so magnificently of the lyfe of Saint Thomas. There is one good thing that hee hath writte[illegible] La vita della virgine Ma[illegible]

though it sauoureth somewhat smell of superstition, with a number more, which here for brauities sake I suppresse. If I be curious he were, he may answere with Ouid, Vita verecunda est, musa iocosa mea est. My life is chaste though wanton heere my verse. Tell mee who is trauelled in histories, what good poet is, or euer was there, who hath not hadde a lyttle spice of wantonnesse in his dayes? Euen Beza himselfe by your leaue. Aretine as long as the worlde lines shall thou line. Tully, Virgil, Ouid, Seneca, were neuer such ornamentes to Italy as thou hast bin. I neuer thought of Italy more religiously than England till I heard of thee. Peace to thy Ghost, and yet me thinkes so indefinite a spirit should haue no peace or intermission of paines, but be penning ditties to the archangels in another worlde. A louder peale with thicke troubleous poison, you swell with perfidious perturbations, your malice hath not scarce drawn of anie inspired disposition.

My principall subiect pluckes me by the elbowe, Diamante Cabaldos y magnificos wife, after my enlargement proued to be with child, at which instant there grew an vnsatiable famine in Venice, wherein, whether it were for meere ruggardize, or that Cabaldo did hate out his heart with reasonne, saint Anne beare record, he turned vp the heels verie demurely. To maister Aretine after this, once more humbly I appeale, requested him of fauour, acknowledged former gratuities, he made me more hummings or halting, but in despite of her husbands knauishe lookes, gaue me her Nunc dimittis, and so establisht her free amity companie.

Vanisht, and fully possest of her husbands goods, she inueigled me in the state of a monarch. Because the time of child birth drew nigh, and she could not remaine in Venice but discredited, sheer decreed to trauell whether so euer I would conduct her. To see Italy throughout was my proposed scope, and that waie if she would trauell, haue with her, I had wherewithall to relieue her.

From my maister by her sub-hand plotting deuice I parted without leaue, the state of an Earle he had thrust vpon me heeretofore, now I would not bate him an ace of it. Through all the cities past I by no other name but the yong Earle of Surry, my pompe, my apparell, traine, and expence, was nothing inferior to his, my lookes were as lofty, my wordes as magnificall. Omnia audaui, that sentence being the principall scope of my maisters course, smiling me the encouraged thether without interruption. By the waie as hee went, hee heard of another Earle of Surry besides himselfe, which caused him to make more hast to fetch me in, whom hee little dreamed of had such

arte in my budget, to separate the shadow from the bodie. Duertake me at Florence he did, where sitting in my pontificalibus with my curtizan at supper, lyke Anthonie and Cleopatra, when they quaffe standing boules of Wine spiced with pearle together, he stole in vere welcome for him, and bad much good it vs, and askt vs whether we wanted anie gests. If he had askt me whether I would haue hanged my selfe, his question had bin more acceptable. Hee that had then vngartered me, might haue pluckt out my heart at my heeles.

My soule which was made to soare vpward, now sought for passage downward, my blood as the blushing Sabine maids surprised on the sodaine by the soulpiers of Romulus, ranne to the noblest of blood amongst them for succour, that were in no lesse (if not greater danger) so did it runne for refuge to the noblest of his blouds about my hart assembled, that stood in more need it selfe of comfort and refuge. A trembling earthquake or shaking feauer assailed either of vs, and I thinke vnfainedly, if he seing our faint heart agonie, had not some cheered and refreshed vs, the dogs had gone together by the eares vnder the table for our feare-dropped limbs.

In steed of menacing or affrighting me with his sword or his frownes for my superlative presumption, he burst out into laughter about Ela, to thinke how brauely napping he had take vs, and how notably we were dampt and stroke dead in the neast, with the vnexpected view of his presence.

Ah, quoth he, my noble Lorde (after his tongue had borrowed a little leaue of his laughter) is it my lucke to visite you thus vnlookt for, I am sure you will binde mee welcome, if it bee but for the names sake. It is a wonder to see two English Earles of one house at one time together in Italy. I hearing him so pleasant, began to gather vp my spirites, and replid as boldly as I durst: Sir, you are welcome, your name which I borrowed I haue not abused, some large summes of monie this my sweet mistres Diamante hath made me master of, which I knew not how better to imploy for the honor of my country, than by spending it munificently vnder your name. No English-man would I haue renowmed for bountie, magnificence and curtesie but you, vnder your colours all my meritorious workes I was desirous to shroud. Had I basely and beggarly wanting abilitie to support anie part of your roialtie, vndertooke the estimation of this high calling, your alleadgement of iniurie had bin the greater, and my defence lesse authorised. It will be thought but a policie of yours thus to send one before you, who being a follower

of yours, shall keepe and vpholde the estate and port of an Earle. I haue knowen many Earles my selfe that in their owne persons would go verie plaine, but delighted to haue one that belonged to them (being loden with iewels, apparelled in cloth of golde, and al the rich imbroderie that might be) to stand bare headed vnto him, arguing thus much, that if the greatest men went not more sumptuous, how more great than the greatest was he that could cōmand one going so sumptuous. A noble mans glory appeareth in nothing so much as in the pompe of his attendants. What is the glory of the Sunne, but that the Moone and so many millions of starres borrow their lights from him? If you can reprehend me of anie one illiberall licentious action I haue disparaged your name with, heape shame on me prodigally, I beg no pardon or pittie.

Non veniunt in idem pudor & amor, he was loth to detract from one that he loued so. Beholding with his eyes that I clipte not the wings of his honour, but rather increast them with additions of expence, he intreated me as if I had bin an Embassadour, he gaue me his hand and swore he had no more hearts but one, and I shoulde haue halfe of it, in that I so inhanced his obscured reputation. One thing, q^oth he, my sweet Iacke I will intreate thee (it shall bee but one) that though I am well pleased thou shouldest bee the ape of my birthright (as what noble man hath not his ape & his foole) yet that thou be an ape without a clog, not carrie thy curtizan with thee. I tolde him that a king could doe nothing without his treasurie, this curtizan was my purse-bearer, my countenance and supporter. My Earledome I would sooner resigne, than parte with such a speciall benefactor, Resigne it I will how euer, since I am thus challenged of stolne goods by the true owner: Lo, into my former state I returne againe, poore Iacke Wilton and your seruant am I, as I was at the beginning, and so will I persever to my liues ending.

That theame was quickly cut off, & other talke entered in place, of what I haue forgot, but talke it was, and talke let it be, & talke it shall be, for I do not meane here to remember it. Wee supt, we got to bed, rose in the morning, on my matter I waited, & the first thing he did after he was vp, he went and visited the house where his Geraldine was borne, at sight whereof hee was so impassioned, that in the open street but for me, he would haue made an oration in prayse of it. Into it we were conducted, and shewed eache seuerall roome thereto appertaining. O but when hee came to the chamber where his Geraldines cleare Sun-beames first thrust themselues into this

cloud of flesh, and acquainted mortalitie with the purity of Angels, then did his mouth ouerflow with magnificats, his tong thrust the starres out of heauen, and eclipsed the Sun and Mone with comparisons, Geraldine was the soule of heauen, sole daughter and heir to primus motor. The alcumie of his eloquence out of the incomprehensible drossie matter of cloudes and aire, distilled no more quintessence than would make his Geraldine compleat faire. In prayse of the chamber that was so illuminatiuely honored with her radiant conception, he penned this sonet.

Faire roome the presence of sweet beauties pride,
The place the Sunne vpon the earth did hold,
When Phaeton his chariot did misguide,
The towre where Ioue raind downe himselfe in golde.

Prostrate as holy ground Ile worship thee,
Our Ladies chappell henceforth be thou namd,
Here first loues Queene put on mortalitie,
And with her beautie all the world inflamd.

Heauens chambers harbering fierie cherubines,
Are not with thee in glorie to compare,
Lightning it is no lightning which in thee shines,
None enter thee but straight intranced are.

O if Elizium be aboue the ground,
Then here it is where nought but ioy is found.

Many other poems and epigrams in that chambers patient alablaster inclosure (which her melting eies long sithence had softned) were curiously ingraued. Diamonds thought themselues Dii mundi, if they might but carue her name on the naked glasse. With the on it did he anatomize these body-wanting mots, Dulce puella malneft, Quod fugit ipse sequor. Amor est mihi causa sequēdi. O infœlix ego. Cur vidi, cur perii. Non patienter amo. Tantū patiatur amari. After the view of these generall monuments, he published a proud challenge in the Duke of Florence court against all commers (whether Christians, Turkes, Iewes, or Saracens, in defence of his Geraldines beautie. For more mildly was it accepted, in that she whom he defended, was a towne borne child of that citie, or else the pride of the Italian would haue preuented him ere he should haue come to performe it. The Duke of Florence neuertheless sent for him, and demaunded him of his estate, and the reason that drew him thereto, which when he was aduertised of to the full, he graunted all Countryes whatsoeuer, as well enemies and outlawes, as friends, and confederates

free accesse and regresse into his dominions vnmolested, vntill that insolent triall were ended.

The right honorable and euer renowned Lord Henrie Howard earle of Surrie my singular good Lord and master, entered the lists after this order. His armour was all intermixed with lillyes and roses, and the bases thereof bordered with nettles and weeds, signifieng stings, crosses, and ouergrowing incumberances in his loue, his helmet round proportioned lyke a gardeners water-pot, from which seemed to issue forth small thrids of water, like citterne strings, that not onely did moisten the lyllyes and roses, but did fructifie as well the nettles and weeds, and made them ouergrow their liege Lords. Whereby he did import thus much, that the teares that issued from his braines, as those artificiall distillations issued from the well counterfeit water-pot on his head, watered and gaue lyfe as well to his mistres disdaine (resembled to nettles and weeds) as increase of glorie to her care-causing beauty (comprehended vnder the lillies and roses.) The simbole thereto annexed was this, Ex lachrimis lachrimæ. The trappings of his horse were pounced and bolstered out with rough plumed siluer plush, in full proportion and shape of an Estrich. On the brest of the horse were the fore-parts of this greedie bird aduanced, whence as his manner is, hee reacht out his long necke to the raines of the bridle, thinking they had bin yron, & still seemed to gape after the golden bit, and euer as the courser did raise or recoyle, to haue swallowed it halfe in. His wings, which he neuer vseth but running, beeing spread full saile, made his lustie steed as proud vnder him as he had bin some other Pegasus, & so quiueringly and tenderly were these his broade winges bounde to either side of him, that as he paced vp and downe the tilt-yard in his maiesty ere the knights were entered, they seemed wantonly to fan in his face, and make a flickering sound, such as Eagles doe, swiftly pursuing their praie in the ayre. On either of his wings, as the Estrich hath a sharpe goad or pricke wherewith he spurreth himselfe forward in his saile-aflicted race, so this artificiall Estrich on the inbent knuckle of the pinion of either wing had embolled christall eyes affixed, wherein wheelewise were circularly ingrafted sharpe pointed diamonds, as rayes from those eyes deriued, that like the rowell of a spur ran deep into his horse sides, and made him more eager in his course. Such a fine dim shine did these christall eies and these round enranked diamonds make through their bolne swelling bowzes of

in a bush by night glistering through the leaues & boughs. The taile of the estrich being short and thicke, serued heris fitly for a plume to tricke vp his horse taile with, so that euery parte of him was as naturally coapted as might be. The worde to this deuice was Aculeo alatus, I spread my wings onely spurd with her eyes. The morall of the whole is this, that as the estrich, the most burning sighted bird of all others, insomuch as the female of them hatcheth not her egs by couering them, but by the effectual rayes of her eyes, as he, I say, outstripperh the nimblest trippers of his feathered condition and footmanship, onely spurd on with the needle quickning goad vnder his side: so he no lesse burning sighted than the estrich, spurde on to the race of honor by the sweet rayes of his mistres eyes, perswaded himselfe he should outstrip all other in running to the goale of glorie, onely animated and incited by hir excellence. And as the estrich will eate yron, swallow anie hard mettall whatsoeuer, so woulde he refuse no aduenture, no hard taske whatsoeuer, to sit in the grace of so fayre a commander. The order of his shielde was this, it was framed lyke a burning glasse beset rounde with flame coloured feathers, on the outside whereof was his mistres picture adorned as beautifull as arte could portrature, on the inside a naked sword tyed in a true loue knit, the mot, Militat omnis amans. Signifieng that in a true loue knot his sword was tied to defend and maintains the features of his mistres.

Next him entered the blacke knight, whose beuer was pointed all corne & bloudie, as though he had new come from combatting with a Beare, his head piece seemed to bee a little ouen fraught full with smoothering flames, for nothing but sulphur and smoake voided out at the clefts of his beuer. His bases were all imbrodred with snakes and adders, ingendered of the aboundaunce of innocent bloud that was shed. His horses trappinges were throughout bespangled with bunnie spottes, which are no blemishes, but ornaments. On his shield hee bare the Sunne full shining on a diall at his going downe, the word sufficit tandem.

After him followed the knight of the Owle, whose armor was a stubd tree ouergrowne with iuie, his helmet fashioned lyke an owle sitting on the top of this iuie, on his bases were wrought all kinde of birdes as on the grounde wondering about him, the word, Ideo mirum quia monstrum, his horses furniture was framed like a carte, scattering whole sheaues of corne amongst hogs, the word, Liberalitas liberalitate perit. On his shield a Bee intangled in sheepes

the mot, Fronds nulla fides. The fourth that succeeded was a well proportioned knight in an armor imitating rush, whose head peece was prefigured lyke flowers growing in a narrowe pot, where they had not anie space to spread their roots or dispense their flourishing. His bases embellisht with open armed hands scatring like gold amongst truncheons, the word, Cura futuri est. His horse was harnessed with leaden chaines, hauing the out-side guilt, or at least saffrond in stead of gilt, to decypher a holy or golden pretence of a couetous purpose, the sentence, Cani capilli mei compedes, on his target he had a number of crawling wormes kept vnder by a blocke, the laburthen Speramus lucent. The fift was the forsaken knight, whose helmet was crowned with nothing but cipresse and willow garlandes, ouer his armour he had Hiems nuptiall robe died in a duskie yelowe, and all to be defaced and discoloured with spots and staines. The enigma, Nos quoque florimus, as who should say, we haue bin in fashion, his shield was adorned with orenge tawnie eies, such as those haue that haue the yellow iandies, that make all things yellow they looke vpon, with this deuise, Qui inuident egent, those that enuy are hungry. The sixt was the knight of the stormes, whose helmet was rounde moloed lyke the moone, and all his armor like waues, whereon the shine of the moone slightly shewed, perfectly representing moone-shine in the water, his bases were the bankes or shores that bounded in the streames. The spoke was this, Frustra pius, as much to saye as fruitlesse seruice. On his shield hee set forth a lion driuen from his praie by a dunghill cock. The word, Non vi sed voce, not by violence but by voyce. The seuenth had lyke the giants that sought to scale heauen in despight of Iupiter, a mount ouerwhelming his head and whole bodie. His bases out-laid with armes and legges, which the skirtes of that mountaine left vncouered, vnder this did he characterise a man desirous to climbe to the heauen of honour, key vnder with the mountaine of his princes command, and yet had he armes and legs exempted from the suppression of that mountain. The word Tu mihi criminis author (alluding to his Princes command) thou art the occasion of my imputed cowardise. His horse was trapt in the earthie strings of tree roottes, which though they increase was stubbed downe to the ground, yet were they not vtterly deaded, but hoped for an after resurrection. The worde Spe alor, I hope for a spring. Vpon his shield he bare a ball striken downe with a mans hand that it might mount. The worde, Ferior vt efferar, I suffer my selfe to be contemned because I will climbe. The eight had all his

armes throughout engrailed like a crabbed brierie bush thorne bush, out of which notwithstanding sprong (as a good child of an ilfather) fragrant blossomes of delightfull may flowers, that made (according to the nature of may) a most odoriferous smell. In midst of this his snowie curled top, round wrapped together, on the ascending of his creast sate a solitarie nightingale close encaged, with a thorne at her breast, hauing this mot in her mouth, Luctus monumenta manebunt. At the foot of this bush represented on his bases, laye a number of blacke swolne Toads gasping for winde, and Summer linde grashoppers gaping after deaw, both which were choakt with excessiue drouth for want of shade. The worde, Non sine vulnere vireſco, I spring not without impedimentes, alluding to the Toads and such lyke that earst lay sucking at his rootes, but nowe were turnd out, and were choakt with drought. His horse was suted in blacke sandy earth (as adiacent to this bush) which was here and there patched with short burnt grasse, and as thicke inke dropped with toiling ants and emets as euer it might crall, who in the full of the summer moone, (ruddie garnished on his horses forehead) hoorded vp their prouision of graine against winter. The worde, Victrix fortunæ sapientia, prouidence preuents misfortune. On his shield he set forth the picture of death doing almes deeds to a number of poore desolate children. The worde, Nemo alius explicat. No other man takes pittie vpon vs. What his meaning was herein I cannot imagine, except death had done him and his brethren some great good turne in ridding thē of some vntoward parent or kinsman that would haue beene their confusion, for ělse I cannot see howe death shoulde haue bin sayd to doe almes deedes, except hee had depriued them sodainly of their liues, to deliuer them out of some further miserie, which could not in anie wise be cause they were yet lying.

The ninth was the infant knight, who on his armour hadde ennameld a poore young infant put into a shippe without tackling, masts, furniture or anie thing. This weather-beaten or ill apparelled ship was shadowed on his bases, and the slender compasse of his bodie set forth the right picture of an infant. The waues wherein the ship was tossed were fettered on his steads trappinges so mouingly, that euer as he offered to bound or stir, they seemed to bounse and tosse, and sparkle byine out of their hoarie siluer billowes, the mot, Inopem me copia fecit, as much to saye, as the rich praymakes the theefe.

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On his shield he expressed an olde goate that made a yong tree to wither onely with bitting it, the word thereto, Primo extinguerit suo. I am frost-bitten ere I come out of the blade.

It were here too tedious to manifest all the discontented or amorous deuises that were vsed in this turnament, the shields onely of some fewe I wyl touch to make short worke. One bare for his impresse the eyes of yong swallowes comming againe after they were pluckt out, with this mot, Et addit et addimit, your beautie both bereaues and restores my sight. Another a syren smiling when the sea rageth and ships are ouer whelmed, including a cruell woman, that laughs, sings, and scornes at her louers teares, and the tempestes of of his despayre, the word, Cuncta pereunt, all my labor is ill imploide. A third being troubled with a curst, a trecherous and wanton wife, vsed this similitude On his shield he caused to be limmed Pompeios ordinance for paracides, as namely a man put into a sacke with a socke, a serpent, and an ape, interpreting that his wife was a cocke for her crowing, a serpent for her stinging, and an aps for her inconstant wantonnes, with which ill qualities he was so beset, that ther by he was throwen into a sea of griefe, the word Extremum malorum mulier, the vtmost of euils is a woman. A fourth, who being a person of suspected religion, was continually haunted with intelligencers and spies, that thought to praie vpon him for that he had, he could not deuise which waie to shake them off, but by making away that he had. To obscure this, he vsed no other fansie but a number of blinde flyes, whose eyes the colde had inclosed, the word Aurum reddit acutissimum, Gold is the onely phisicke for the eie-sight. A fifth, whose mistres was fallen into a consumption, and yet would condescend to no treatie of loue, emblazoned for his complaint, grapes that withered for want of pressing. The dittie to the mot, Quid regna sine vsu. I wil rehearse no more, but I haue an hundred other, let this bee the vpshot of those shewes, they were the admirablest that euer Florence yelded. To particularize their manner of encounter were to describe the whole art of tilting. Some had like to haue fallen ouer their horse neckes, and so breake they're neckes in breaking they're staues. Others ranne at a buckle in stead of a button, and peraduenture whetted they're speares points, idlely gliding on they're enemies sides, but did no other harme. Others ranne a crosse at their aduersaryes left elbow, yea, and by your leaue sometimes let not the lists scape scot-free they were so eager. Others because they would not be vnsadled with the shocke, when they came to the

ſpeares b'moſt p'ooſe, they th'ewe it ouer the right ſhoulder, and ſo tilted backward, fo' fo'ward they durſt not. Another had a monſtrous ſpite at th' pomme of his riuals ſaddle, and thought to haue th'uſt his ſpeare twirt his legs without raſing anie ſkin, and carried him clean awaie on it as a coolestaffe. Another held his ſpeare to his noſe, o' his noſe to his ſpeare, as though he had bin diſcharging his caliuer, and ranne at the right foote of his fellowes ſtead. Onely the Earle of Surrie my maſter obſerued the true meaſures of honour, and made all his encounterers new ſcoure their armo' in the duſt: ſo great was his glo'y that day, as Geraldine was ther by eternally glo'ified. Neuer ſuch a bountiful maſter came amongſt the heralds (not that he did inrich them with anie plentifull purſe largeſſe) but that by his ſterne aſſaults he tithed them mo're rich offals of baſes, of helmets, of armo', than the rent of their offices came to in ten yeres befo're.

What would you haue mo're, the trumpets p'oclaimed him maſter of the field, the trumpets p'oclaimed Geraldine the exceptionleſſe fay're of women. The Duke of Flo'ence, whoſe name (as my memo'ie ſeruеth me) was Paſchal de Medicis, offered him ſuch large proffers to ſtay with him, as it was incredible to repo't. He would not, his deſire was as he had done in Flo'ence, ſo to p'oceed th'ough out all the chiefe cities in Italy. If you aſke why hee began this at Venice firſt. It was becauſe he would let Flo'ence his miſtres natiue citie haue the maidenhead of his chiualrie. As he came backe agayne he thought to haue enacted ſome thing there wo'thie the Annals of poſteritie, but he was debard both on that and all his other determinations, fo' continuing in feaſting and banketting with the Duke of Flo'ence and the P'inces of Italy there aſſembled, poſthaſt letters came to him from the king his maſter, to returne as ſpeedily as he could poſſible into England, wherby his fame was quit cut off by the ſhins, and there was no rep'iue but Bazelus manus, hee muſt into England, and I with my curtizan trauelled fo'ward in Italy. What aduentures happened him after we parted, I am ignorant, but Flo'ence we both fo'ſooke, and I hauing a wonderfull ardent inclination to ſee Rome the Quеn of the wo'ld, & metropolitane miſtres of all other cities, made thether with my bag and baggage as faſt as I could.

Attained thether, I was lodged at the houſe of one Iohannes de Imola a Roman caualiero. Who being acquainted with my curtizans deceaſed doting huſband, fo' his ſake bid me with all the fami-

artie that might be, he shewed vs all the monumentes that were to bee sene, which are as manye as there haue beene Emperours, Consulles, Orateurs, Conquerours, famous painters or plaiers in Rome. Tyll this daie not a Romane (if he be right Romane indeed) will kill a rat, but he will haue some registred remembrance of it.

There was a poore fellowe during my remainder there, that for a newe tricke that hee had inuented of killing Cymeses and Scorpions, had his monkebanke banner borne vp on a high piller, with an inscription about it longer than the king of Spaines stile. I thought these Cymesses lyke the Cimbrians, hadde beene some straunge Nation hee hadde brought vnder, and they were no more but thinges lyke lice, which aliue haue the most venimous sting that maye bee, and beeing deade, doe stinke out of measure, Saint Austen compareth heretikes vnto them. The chiefest thing that my eyes delighted in, was the church of the seuen Sibels, which is a most miraculous thing. All their prophesies and oracles being there inrolde, as also the beginning and ending of their whole catalogue of the heathen Gods, with their manner of worship. There are a number of other shrines and statues dedicated to the Emperours, and withall some statues of Idolatrie reserued for detestation.

I was at Pontius Pilates house and pist against it. The name of the place I remember not, but it is as one goes to Saint Paules Church not farre from the Iemmes Piazza. There is the prison yet packt vp together (an olde rotten thing) wher the man that was condemned to death, and coulde haue no bodie come to him and succour him but was searcht, was kepte aliue a long space by sucking his daughters breasts. These are but the choppe duff of the sights that I sawe, and in truth I did not beholde with anie care hereafter to report, but contented my eie for the present, & so let them passe: should I memorize halfe the miracles which they there tolde mee had beene done about martyrs tombes, or the operations of the earth of the sepulchre, and other relikes brought from Ierusalem, I shoulde be counted the monstrous lyer that euer came in print. The ruines of Pompeies theater, reputed one of the nine wonders of the world, Gregori 7 sixths tombe, Priscillas grate, or the thousands of pillers arrered amongst the raced foundations of olde Rome, it were friuolous to specifie, since he that hath but once dronke with a traueller talks of them. Let me be a historiographer of my owne misfortunes, and not

ust meddle with the continued Trophees of so olde a triumphing Citie.

At my first comming to Rome, I being a youth of the English cut, ware my haire long, went apparelled in light colours, and imitated foure or fiue sundry nations in my attire at once: which no sooner was noted, but I had all the boies of the citie in a swarme wondering about me.

I hadde not gone a little farther, but certaine officers crosse the waie of mee, and demaunded to see my rapier: which when they found (as also my dagger) with his point vnblunted, they wold haue halde me headlong to the Strappado, but that with money I appeased them: and my fault was more pardonable in that I was a stranger, altogether ignorant of their customes. Note by the waye that it is the vse in Rome, for all men whatsoeuer to weare their haire short, which they doe not so much for conscience sake, or any religion they place in it, but because the extremitie of the heate is such there, that if they should not doe so, they should not haue a haire left on their heads to stand vpright when they were scard with sprights. And hee is counted no Gentleman amongest them that goes not in blacke: they onelie they iesters and fooles only in fresh colours, and saie variable garments not argue stabilitie and vncertaincie of affections.

The reason of their straight ordinaunce for carrying weapons without points is this: The Bandetties, which are certayne outlawes that lie betwixt Rome and Naples, and beseige the passage that none can trauell that waie without robbing. Nowe and then hired for some few crownes, they will scale to Rome and do a murther, and betake them to their heeles againe. Disguised as they goe, they are not knowen from strangers, sometimes they will shrouds themselues vnder the habite of graue citizens. In this consideration neither citizen or stranger, gentleman, knight, Marques, or anie else weare anie weapon vndamageable vpon paine of the Strappado. I bought it out, let others buy experience of mee better cheape.

To tell you of the rare pleasures of their gardens, theyr bathes, theyr vineyardes, theyr galleries, were to write a seconde part of the goodly Gallerie of gallant deuices. Why, you should not come into anie common house of account, but hee hadde fishponds and little orchardes on the toppe of theyr leads. If by traine as anie other meanes those ponds were so full they need to be fed

let out, euen of their superfluities they made melodious vse, for they had great winde instruments in stead of laden spoutes, that went duly on consort, onely with this waters rumbling discent. I saw a summer banketting house belonging to a merchaunt, that was the meruaile of the world, & could not be matcht except God should make another paradise. It was builte round of greene marble, like a Theater with-out, within there was a heauen and earth comprehended both vnder one rofe, the heauen was a cleere ouerhanging vault of christall, wherein the Sunne and Moone, and each visible Starre had his true similitude, shine, scituaton, and motion, and by what enwrapped arte I cannot conceiue, these spheares in their proper orbes obserued their circular wheelinges and turnings, making a certaine kinde of soft angelical murmering musicke in their often windings & going about, which musick the philosphers say in the true heauen by reason of the grosenes of our senses we are not capable of. For the earth it was counterfeited in that liuines that Adam loyded out it before his fall. A wide vaft spacious roome it was, such as we would conceit princes Arthurs hall to be, where he feasted all his knights of the round table together euerie pentecost. The floor was painted with the beautifullest flowers that euer mans eie admired which so linealy were delineated, that he that beheld them a farre off and had not directly stood poaringly ouer them, would haue sworne they had liued in deede. The wals round about were bedgde with Olives and palme trees, and all other odoriferous fruit-bearing plants, which at anie solemne intertainment dropt mirrhe and frankensence. Other trees that bare no fruit, were set in iust order one against another, & diuided the rome into a number of shadie lanes, leaning but one ouer spreading pine tree arbor, where wee sate and banketted. On the wel clothed boughs of this conspiracie of pine trees against the resembled Sun beames, were pearcht as many sortes of chrill breasted birdes as the Summer hath allowed for singing men in his siluane chappels. Who though there were bodies without soules, and sweete resembled substances without sense, yet by the mathematicall experimentes of long siluer pipes secretlye inwinded in the intrailes of the boughs whereon they sate, and vndiscernablie conuaid vnder their bellies into their small throats sloaping, they whistled and freely carold their naturall field note. Neyther went those siluer pipes straight, but by many edged vnsundred writhings, & crankled ingineringes a fine strayed from bough to bough into an hundred throats. ut into this siluer pipe so writhed and wandering a fine, if anie

demand how the wind was breathed. For soth the tail of the siluer pipe stretcht it selfe into the mouth of a great paire of belowes, where it was close soldered, and bailde about with yron, it coulde not stirre or haue ante vent betwixt. Those bellowes with the rising and falling of leaden plummets wounde vpon a wheele, and beate vp and downe incessantly, and so gathered in wind, seruing with one blast all the snarled pipes to and fro of one tree at once. But so closely were all those organizing implements obscured in the corpulent trunks of the trées, that euerie man there present renounst coniectures of art, and sayd it was done by inchantment.

One tree for his fruit bare nothing but inchained chirping birdes, whose throates beeing conduit pipt with squared narrowe shels, & charged string-wise with searching sweet water, driuen in by a little wheele for the nonce, that fed it a farre of, made a spirting sound, such as chirping is in bubling vpwards through the rough crannies of their closed bills. Vnder tuition of the shade of euerie tree that I haue signified to be in this round hedge, on delightful leuie cloisters, lay a wylde tyrannous beast aslepe all prostrate: vnder some two together, as the Dogge nusling his nose vnder the necke of the Deare, the Wolfe glad to let the Lambe lye vpon hym to kepe him warme, the Lyon suffering the Asse to cast hys legge ouer him: preferring one honest vnmannerly friende, before a number of crouching picke-thankes. No poysonous beast there reposed, (poyson was not before our parent Adam transgressed). There were no sweete-breathing Panthers, that would hyde their terrifying heads to betray: no men imitating Hyænaes, that chaunged their sexe to seeke after bloud. Wolues as now when they are hungrie eate earth, so then did they feed on earth only, and abstained from innocent flesh. The Vnicorne did not put his horne into the streame to chase awaye venome before hee dronke, for then there was no suche thing extant in the water or on the earth. Serpents were as harmlesse to mankinde, as they are still one to another: the rose had no cankers, the leaues no caterpillers, the sea no Syrens, the earth no blurers. Goats then bare woll, as it is recorded in Sicily they do yet. The torride Zone was habitable: only Jayes loued to steale gold and siluer to build their nests withall, and none cared for couetous clientrie, or runing to the Indies. As the Elephant vnderstands his countrey speach, so euerie beast vnderstood what man spoke. The ant did not hoord vp against winter, for there was no winter but a perpetuall spring, as Ouid sayth. No frosts to make the greene al and tre

counted rash and improuident, in budding soonest of all other: or the mulberie tree a strange politition, in blooming late and ripening early. The peach tree at the first planting was fruitfull and wholsome, whereas now till it be transplanted, it is poisonous and hatefull: young plants for their sap and balme, for their yeolow gumme glistering amber. The sueuing beawd not water on flowers, but honie. Such a golden age, such a good age, such an honest age was set forth in this banketting house. O Rome, if thou hast in thee such exalting obiects, what a thing is heauen in comparison of thee? Of which Mercators globe is a perfecter modell than thou art: yet this I must saie to the shame of vs protestants, if good workes may merite heauen they doe them, we talke of them. Whether superfluous or no makes them vnprofitable seruants, that let pulpits decide: but there you shall haue the brauest ladies, in gownes of beaten golde washing pilgrimes & poore soldiers feete, and doing nothing they and their waiting maides all the yeare long, but making shirts and bands for them against they come by in distresse. Their hospitals are more like noble mens houses then otherwise, so richly furnished, cleane kept, and hot perfumed, that a soldier would thinke it a sufficient recompence for all his trauell and his woundes, to haue such a heauenly retyring place. For the pope and his pontificalibus I will not deale with, onely I will dilate vnto you what happened whilest I was in Rome.

So it fel out, that it being a vehement hot summer when I was a soiourner there, there entered such a hotspurd plague as hath not bin heard of: why it was but a word and a blowe. Lord haue mercie vpon vs and he was gone. Within three quarters of a yeare in that one citie there died of it a hundred thousand: looke in Lanquets chronicle and you shall finde it. To smell of a nosegay that was poisond, and turne your nose to a house that had the plague, it was all one. The clouds like a number of cormorants that keepe their course till it stinke and is mustie, kept in their stinking exhalations, till they had almost stifeled all Romes inhabitants. Philitians greedines of golde made them greedie of their destinie. They would come to visit those with whose infirmitie their art had no affinitie, and euen as a man with a sse should be hired to hang himselfe, so would they quietly go home and die presently after they had bin with their patients. All days and all night long carre-men did nothing but go vp and downe the streets with their carts and cry. Haue you any dead bodies to bury and had many times out of one house their whole losing: one

graue was the sepulchre of seuen score, one bed was the after whereon whole families were offered. The walls wer board and furd with the moist scorching steames of their desolation. Euen as before a gun is shot off, a stinking smoake funnels out, and prepares the way for him, so before any gane vp the ghost, death arraid in a stinking smoak stops his nostrels, and cramd it ful into his mouth that closed vp his fellows eyes, to giue him warning to prepare for his funeral. Some vide sitting at their meat, others as they were asking counsell of the phisition for their friends. I sawe at the house where I was bested a maide bring her master warme broth for to comfort him, and shee stinke downe dead her selfe ere he had halfe eate it vp.

During this time of visitation, there was a Spaniard, one Eldras of Granado, a notable Bandetto, authorised by the pope, because he had assisted him in some murthers. This villain colleagued with one Bartol a desperate Italian, practised to breake into those riche mens houses in the night where the plague had most rained, and if there were none but the mistres and maide left alue, to rauish them both, & bring awaie all the wealth they could fasten on. In an hundred chiefe citizens houses where the hand of God had been they put this outrage in vre. Though the women so rauished crie out, none durst come neere them for feare of catching their deaths by them, and some thought they cried out onely with the tyrannie of the maladie. Amongst the rest, the house where I lay be invaded, where al being snatcht vp by sickness but the good wife of the house, a noble & chast matrone called Heraclide and her zanie, and I and my curtizan, hee knocking at the doore late in the night, ranne in to the matrons, and left me and my loue to the mercie of his companion. Who finding me in bed (as the time required) ranne at me ful with his rapier, thinking I would resist him, but as good luck was I escapt him, and betooke me to my pistoll in the window vncharged. He fearing it had beene charged, threatned to runne her through if I once offered but to aime at him. Foorth the chamber hee dragde her, holding his rapier at her heart, whilest I crie out, Saue her, kill me, and Ile ransome her with a thousande duckets: but lust prevailed, no prayers would be heard. Into my chamber I was lockt, and watchmen (as hee made semblaunce when there was none there) to knocke mee downe with their halberdes if I stirde but a foote downe the stayres. Then threw I my selfe pensiue againe on my pallate, and darde all the deuiles in hell nowe I was alone to come and fight with mee one after another in defence of that detestable rape. I

heare

beat my head against the wals & cald them bauds, because they would see such a wrong committed, and not fall vppon him. To returne to Heraclide below, whom the vgliest of all blood suckers Esdras of Granado had vnder thrift. First he assayled her with rough meanes, and slue hir Zanie at hir foote, that kept before hir in rescue. Then when all armed resist was put to flight, he assaied her with honis speech, & promised her more iewells and giftes than hee was able to pilfer in an hundred yeres after. He discourst vnto her how he was countenanced and borne out by the pope, and how many execrable murthers with impunitie he had executed on them that displeasde him. This is the eight score house (quoth he) that hath done homage vnto me, & here I will prevaile, or I will bee torne in pieces. Ah quoth Heraclide (with a hart renting sigh) art thou ordaind to be a worse plague to me than ỳ plague it selfe? Have I escapt the hands of God to fal into ỳ hands of man? Heare me Iehouah, & be merciful in ending my miserie. Dispatch me incontinent dissolute homicide death vsurper. Here lies my husband stone colde on the dewie floore. If thou hast of more power than God, to strike me spedily, strike home, strike deepe, send me to heauen with my husband. Aie me, it is the spoil of my honor thou seekest in my soules troubled departure, thou art some deuill sent to tempt me. Auoid from me sathan, my soule is my saviours, to him I haue bequeathed it, from him can no man take it. Iesu, Iesu spare mee vndefiled for thy spouse, Iesu, Iesu neuer faile those that put their trust in thee. With that she fell in a sowne, and her eies in their closing seemed to spanne forth in their outward sharpe corners new created seed pearle, which the world before neuer set sie on. Soone he rigorously reuiued her, & tolde her ỳ he had a charter aboue scripture, she must yeld, for who durst remoue her out of his hands. Twixt life and death thus she faintly replied. How thinkest thou, is there a power aboue thy power, if there be, he is here present in punishment, and on thee will take present punishment if thou perfillest in thy enterprise. In the time of securitie euerie man sinneth, but when death substitutes one frend his special baily to arrest another by infection, and dispearseth his quiuer into ten thousande hands at once, who is it but lookes about him? A man that hath an vnauoidable huge stone hanging only by a haire ouer his head, which he lookes euerie Paternoster while to fall and pash him in peeces, will not he be submissiuely sorrowfull for his trans- gressions, refraine himselfe from the least thought of folly, and purifie his spirit with contrition and penitence? Gods hand like a huge stone hangs in mi-

fably ouer thy head: what is the plague, but death playing the Pro-
uoſt Marſhall, to execute all thoſe that will not be called home by anie
other meanes. This my dere knights bodie is a quiuer of his arrowes
which alreadie are ſhot into thee inuiſibly. Euen as the age of goats
is knowen by the knots on their hornes, ſo thinke the anger of God
apparantly vifsoned or ſhowne vnto thee in knitting of my browes.
A hundred haue I buried out of my houſe, at all whoſe departures
I haue been preſent: a hundreds infection is mixed with my breath:
loe, now I breath vpon thee, a hundred deaths come vppon thee. Re-
pent betimes, imagine there is a hell though not a heauen: that hell
thy conſcience is throughly acquainted with, if thou haſt murdred half
ſo manie, as thou vnblushingly braggeſt. As Mecoenas in the latter
end of his daies was ſeuen yeres without ſléepe, ſo theſe ſeuen weeks
haue I tooke no ſlumber, my eyes haue kept continuall watch againſt
the diuell my enemie: death I déemed my friend (friends flye from vs
in aduerſitie), death, the diuell, and all the miniſtring ſpirits of temp-
tation are watching about thée to intrap thy ſoule (by my abuſe) to e-
ternall damnation. It is thy ſoule thou maiſt ſaue, onely by ſauing
mine honour. Death will haue thy bodie infallibly for breaking in-
to my houſe, that he had ſelected for his priuate habitation. If thou
euer camſt of a woman, or hopeſt to be ſaued by the ſéed of a woman,
pittie a woman. Deares oppreſſed with dogges, when they cannot
take ſoyle, run to men for ſuccour: to whom ſhould women in their
diſconſolate and deſperate eſtate run, but to Men (like the Deare) for
ſuccour and ſanctuarie. If thou be a man, thou wilt ſuccour mée, but
if thou be a dog and a brute beaſt, thou wilt ſpoile mee, defile mee, and
teare me: either renounce Gods image, or renounce the wicked mind
thou beareſt.

Theſe words might haue mouid a compound hart of yron and ada-
mant, but in his hart they obtained no impreſſion: for he ſitting in his
chaire of ſtate againſt the doore all the while that ſhe pleaded, leaning
his ouer-hanging glomie ey-browes on the pommell of his vnſhea-
thed ſword, he neuer lookt vp or gaue hir a word: but when he perce-
ued ſhe expected his anſwer of grace or vtter perdition, he ſtart vp, and
tooke her curtiſly by the neck, aſking how long he ſhould ſtay for hir
Ladiſhip. Thou telſt me (quoth he) of the plague, & the heauie hand of
God, and thy hundred infected breaths in one: I tel thée I haue caſt
the dice an hundred times for the gallies in Spaine, and yet ſtill miſs
the til chance. Our order of caſting is this, If there be a Generall

crownes ouer-plus of the kings in his hand, and his soldiers all paid, he makes proclamation, That whatsoeuer two resolute men will goe to dice for it, and win the bridle or lose the saddle, to such a place let them repaire, and it shall be readie for them. Thither go I, and finde another such needie squire resident. The dice run, I win he is vndone. I winning haue the crownes, hee losing is carried to the Galleyes. This is our custome, which a hundred times and more hath paid me custome of crownes, when the poore fellowes haue gone to Gehenna, had course bread and whipping there all their life after. Now thinkest thou that I who so oft haue escaped such a number of hellish dangers, onely depending vpon the turning of a fewe prickes, can bee scare-bugd with the plague? What plague canst thou name worse than I haue had? whether diseases, imprisonment, pouertie, banishment, I haue past through them all. My owne mother gaue I a borne of the eare to, and brake her necke downe a paire of staires, because she would not goe in to a Gentleman when I bad her: my sister I sold to an old Leno to make his best of her: and a kinswoman that I haue knew I she were not a whore, my selfe would make her one: thou art a whore, thou shalt be a whore, in spite of religion, or precise ceremonies.

Therewith he flew vpon her, and threatned her with his sword, but it was not that he meant to wound her with. He graspt her by the poore throat, and choke her as a mastiffe would shake a yong beare, swearing and staring he would teare out her weasand if shee refused. Not content with that sauage constraint, he slipt his sacrilegious hand from her lilly lawne skinned necke, and inscarft it in her long siluer lockes, which with strugling were vnrould. Backward he dragd her euen as a man backwarde would plucke a tree downe by the twigs, and then like a traitor that is drawen to execution on a hurdle, he trailed her vp and down the chamber by those tender vntwisted braids, and setting his barbarous foote on her bare snowy breast, bad her yeld or haue her winde stampt out. She cride, stamp, stifle me in my haire, hang me vp by it on a beame, and so let me die, rather than I should goe to heauen with a beame in my eye. No quoth he, nor stampt, nor stifled, nor hanged, nor to heauen shalt thou go till I haue had my will of thee, thy base armes in these silken fetters I le infold. Disnuffling her haire from his fingers, and pinnioning her elbowes therewithall, she strugled, she wrestled, but all was in vaine. So strugling, and resisting, her teares did sweate, signifying there was poison reaming

vpon rashnesse to beat ope the two leaued gate of her chastitie. Her husbands dead bodie he made a pillow to his abhomination. Conieture the rest, my words sticke fast in the myre and are cleane tyred, would I had neuer vndertooke this tragicall tale. Whatsoeuer is borne, is borne to haue an end. Thus ends my tale, his whorish lust was glutted, his beastly desire satisfied: what in the house of anie worth was carriageable, he put vp, and went his way.

Let not your sorrow die: you that haue read the prosme of the narration of this eligiacall historie. Shew you haue quick wits in sharp conceipt of compassion. A woman that hath viewed all her children sacrificed before her eyes, & after the first was slaine, wyped the sword with her apron to prepare it for the cleanly murther of the second, and so on forward till it come to the empiercing of the seuenteenth of her loynes, will you not giue her great allowance of anguish? This woman, this matrone, this forsaken Heraclide, hauing buried fourteene children in fiue daies, whose eyes she howlingly closed, & caught many wrinckles with funerall kisses: besides, hauing her husband within a day after laid forth as a comfortles corse, a carrionly blocke, that could neither eate with her, speak with her, nor weepe with her, is she not to bee borne withall, though her body swell with a Timpany of teares, though her speech be as impatient as vnhappie Hecubas, though her head raues, and her braine doate? Deuile with your slaues that you see a corse rising from his hierse after he is caried to church, & such another suppose Heraclide to be, rising from the couch of enforced adulteris.

Her eies wer dim, her cheeks bloodles, her breath smelt earthy, her countnance was gastly. Vp she rose after she was deflowred, but loath she arose, as a reprobate soule rising to the day of iudgement. Looking on the torne side as she rose, she spide her husbands bodie lying vnder her head: ah then she bewailed, as Cephalus when he had killd Procris vnwittingly, or Oedipus when ignorantly he had slaine his father, & known his mother incestuously: this was her subdued resons discourse.

Haue I liued to make my husbands bodie the beere to carrie mee to hell? had filthy pleasure no other pillow to leane vpon but his speeded limbs? On thy fleshy my fault shall be imprinted at the day of resurrection. O beautie, the bait ordained to insnare the irreligious: rich men are robbed for their wealth, women are dishonested for being too fair. No blessing is beautie but a curse: curst be the time that euer I was begotten, curst be the time that my Mother brought mee forth

http://stores.

[illegible] the serpent in paradise did no more, the serpent in para-

is damned ſempiternally: why ſhould not I hold my ſelfe damned (if predeſtinations opinions be true) that am predeſtinate to this horrible abuſe. The hog dieth preſently if he loſeth an eye: with the hog haue I wallowed in the myre, I haue loſt my eye of honeſtie, it is cleane pluckt out with a ſtrong hand of vnchaſtitie: what remaineth but I dye? Die I will, though like be vnwilling: no recompence is there for me to redeeme my compelled offence, but with a rigorous compelled death. Huſband, Ile bee thy wife in Heauen: let not thy pure deceaſed ſpirit deſpiſe me when we meet, becauſe I am tyrannouſly polluted. The diuell, the belier of our frailtie, and common accuſer of mankinde, cannot accuſe mee though hee would of vnconſtrained ſubmitting. If anie guilt be mine, this is my fault, that I did not deforme my face, ere it ſhould ſo impioniſhe allure. Hauing paſſioned thus awhile, ſhe haſtely ran and lookt hir ſelfe in hir glaſſe, to ſee if her ſin were not written on her forehead: with loking ſhee blusht, though none lookt vpon her, but her owne reflected image.

Then began ſhe againe, Heu quam difficile eſt crimen non prodere vultu: How hard is it not to betray a mans fault by his forehead. My ſelfe do but behold my ſelfe, and yet I bluſh: then God beholding me, ſhall not I be ten times more aſhamed? The Angels ſhall hiſſe at me, the Saints and Martyrs flye from me: yea, God himſelfe ſhall adde to the diuels damnation, becauſe he ſuffered ſuch a wicked creature ſo come before him. Agamemnon, thou wert an infidell, yet when thou went'ſt to the Troian warre, thou left'ſt a muſitian at home with thy Wife, who by playing the lute Spondæus till thy retourne, might keepe her in chaſtitie. My huſband going to warre with the diuell and his enticements, when hee ſurrendred left no muſition with me, but mourning and melancholy: had he left anie, as Ægiſtus kild Agamemnons muſitian ere he could be ſucceſſull, ſo ſurely would hee haue been kild ere this Ægiſtus ſurceaſed. My diſtreſſed heart as the Hart when as hee loſeth his hornes is aſhamed, and forrowfullie runneth to hide himſelfe, ſo be thou afflicted and diſtreſſed, hide thy ſelfe vnder the Almighties wings of mercie: ſue, plead, intreate, grace is neuer denied to them that aſke. It may be denied, I male be a deſell ordained to diſhonor.

The onely repeale we haue from Gods vndefinite chaſtiſement, is to chaſtiſe our ſelues in this world: and I will, nought but death be my penuance, gracious and acceptable male it be: my hand and my knife ſhall manumit mee out of the horrour of miſdee I endure.

sinne-soiled flesh, that hast more weedes than flowers, more woes than toies. Point pierce, edge enwiden, I patiently affoorde thee a sheath: spurre forth my soule to mount polte to heauen. Iesu forgiue me, Iesu receiue me.

So (throughlie stabd) fell she downe, and knockt her head against her husbands bodie: wherwith he not hauing bin aired his full foure and twentie howres, start as out of a dreame: whiles I thorough a crannie of my vpper chamber vnsceled, had beheld all this sad spectacle. Awaking, he rubbed his head to and fro, and wyping his eyes with his hand began to loke about him. Feeling some thing lie heauie on his breast, he turned it off, and getting vpon his legs lighted a candle.

Here beginneth my purgatorie. For bee god man comming into the hall with the candle, and spying his wife with hir haire about hir eares defiled and massacred, and his simple Zanie Capestrano runne through, toke a halberd in his hand, and running from chamber to chamber to serch who in his house was likelie to doo it, at length found me lying on my bed, the doore locht to me on the out-side, and my rapier vnsheathed in the window: wherewith he straight conjectured it was I. And calling the neighbours hard by, said, I had caused my self to be lockt into my chamber after that sort, sent a way my Curtizane whom I called my wife, and made clean my rapier, because I would not be suspected.

Vpon this was I laide in prison, should haue been hanged, was brought to the ladder, had made a Ballad for my Farewell in a readines called Wiltons wantonnes, and yet for all that scapde daunsing in a hempen circle. He that hath gone through many perils and returned safe from them, makes but a merriment to dilate them. I had the knot vnder my eare, there was faire plaie, the hangman had one halter, another about my necke was fastned to the gallowes, the riding deuice was almost thrust home, and his foote on my shoulder to presse me downe, when I made my saint-like confession as you haue heard before, that such and such men at such an howre brake into the house, slew the Zanie, took my Curtizan, lockt me into my chamber, rauisht Heraclide, and finallie how she slew her selfe.

Present at the execution was there a banisht English Earle, who hearing that a Countrey-man of his was to suffer for such a notable murder, came to heare his confession, and see if he knew him. He had not heard me tell halfe of that I haue recited, but he caused audience and desired the execution might be staid.

Not two dales since it is, Gentlemen and noble Romanes (said he) since going to be let blood in a Barbars shop against the infection, all on sodaine in a great tumult and vproare was there brought in, one Bartoll an Italian greeuously wounded and bloodie. I seeming to commiserate his harmes, curteously questiond him with what ill debters he had met, or how or by what casualtie he came to bee so arraid? O (quoth he) long haue I liued sworne brothers in sensualitie with one Esdras of Granado: fiue hundred rapes and murders haue we committed betwixt vs. When our iniquities were growen to the height, and God had determined to counterchecke our amitie, we came to the house of Iohannes de Imola (whom this yong Gentleman hath named) there did he iustifie all those rapes in manner and forme as the prisoner here hath confest. But loe an accident after, which neyther he nor this audience is priuie to. Esdras of Granado not content to haue rauisht the Matrone Heraclide and robd her, after he had betook him from thence to his héles, lighted on his companion *Bartol* with his Curtizan: whose pleasing face he had scarce winkingly glanst on, but he pickt a quarrell with *Bartoll* to haue her from him. On this quarrell they fought, *Bartoll* was wounded to the death, Esdras fled, and the faire dame left to go whether she would. This, *Bartoll* in the Barbars shop freely acknowledged, as both the Barbar and his man and other here present can amplie depose.

Deposed they were, their oaths went for currant, I was quit by proclamation: to the banisht Earle I came to render thankes, when thus he examined and schoold me.

Countriman, tell me what is the occasion of thy straying so farre out of England, to visit this strange Nation? If it bee languages, thou maist learne them at home, nought but lasciuiousnesse is to bee learned here. Perhaps, to be better accounted of, than other of thy condition, thou ambitiously vndertakest this voyage: these insolent fancies are but Icarus feathers, whose wanton waxe melted against the Sunne, will betray thée into a sea of confusion.

The first traueller was Cain, and he was called a vagabond runnagate on the face of the earth. Trauaile (like the trauaile wherein smithes put wilde horses when they shoo them) is good for nothing but to tame and bring men vnder.

God had no greater curse to lay vpon the Israelites, than by leading them out of their owne countrey to liue as slaues in a strange land. That which was their curse, we Englishmen count our chiefe bles-

sings, hee is no bodie that hath not trauelt: wee had rather liue as

slaues in another land, crouch and cap, and be seruile to euerie ielous Italians and proud Spaniards humor, where we may neither speak loke nor do anie thing, but what pleaseth them: than liue as freemen and Lords in our owne Countrey.

He that is a trauceller must haue the backe of an asse to beare all, a tung like the taile of a dog to flatter all, the mouth of a hogge to eate what is set before him, the eare of a merchant to heare all and say nothing: and if this be not the highest step of thraldome, there is no libertie or freedome.

It is but a milde kinde of subiection to be the seruant of one master at once, but when thou hast a thousand thousand masters, as the veriest botcher, tinker or cobler from home will dominere ouer a forreiner, and thinke to bee his better or master in companie: then shalt thou finde there is no such hell, as to leaue thy fathers house (thy naturall habitation) to liue in the land of bondage.

If thou dost but lend halfe a loke to a Romans or Italians wife, thy pawnedge shalbe prepared for thee, and cost thee nothing but thy life. Chance some of them breake a bitter iest on thee, and thou retortst it seuerely, or seemest discontented: goe to thy chamber, and prouide a great banket, for thou shalt be sure to be visited with guests in a maske the next night, when in kindnes and courtship thy throat shall be cut, and the doers returne undiscouered. Nothing so long of memorie as a dog, these Italians are old dogs, & will carrie an iniurie a whole age in memorie: I haue heard of a bore on the eare that hath bin reuenged thirtie yeare after. The Neapolitane carrieth the bloodiest mind, and is the most secret fleeting murderer: whereupon it is growen to a common prouerbe, Ile giue him the Neapolitan shrug, when one intends to play the villaine, and make no boast of it.

The onely precept that a trauelles hath most vse of, and shall finde most ease in, is that of Epicharchus, Vigila, & memor sis ne quid credas: Beleeue nothing, trust no man, yet seeme thou as thou swallowest all, suspectedst none, but wert easie to be guiled by euerie one. Multi fallere docuerunt (as Seneca saith) dum timent falli: Many by showing their ielous suspect of deceit, haue made men seek more subtill meanes to deceiue them.

Alas, our Englishmen are the plainest dealing soules that euer God put life in: they are greedie of newes, and loue to bee fed in their humors, and heare themselues flattered the best that may be. Euen as Philemon a Comick Poet died with extreme laughter at the conceit of seeing an asse eate figs: so haue the Italians no such sport, as to

poore Englishe alles, how soberlie they swallow Spanish figges, deuoure anie hooke baited for them. He is not fit to trauell, that cannot with the Candians liue on serpents, make nourishing food euen of poison. Rats and mice ingender by licking one another, he must licke, he must crouch, he must cog, lye and prate, that either in the Court or a forren Countrey will ingender and come to preferment. Be his feature what it will, if he be faire spoken he winneth freends: Non formosus erat, sed erat facundus Vlysses: Vlysses the long Traueller was not amiable, but eloquent. Some alledge, they trauell to learne wit, but I am of this opinion, that as it is not possible for anie man to learne the Art of Memorie, whereof Tully, Quintillian, Seneca and Hermannus Buschius haue written so manie bookes, except hee haue a naturall memorie before, so is it not possible for anie man to attain anie great wit by trauell, except he haue the grounds of it rooted in him before. That wit which is thereby to be perfected or made staid, is nothing but Experientia longa malorum, the experience of manie euils: The experience that such a man lost his life by this folly, another by that: such a yong Gallant consumed his substaunce on such a Curtizan: these courses of reuenge a Merchant of Venice toke against a Merchant of Ferrara: and this point of iustice was shewed by the Duke vpon the murtherer. What is here but we may read in bookes and a great deale more too, without stirring our feete out of a warme Studie.

> Vobis alii ventorum prælia narrent, (saith Ouid)
> Quasque Scilla infestat, quasue Charybdis aquas.
> Let others tell you wonders of the winde,
> How Scilla or Charybdis is inclinde.
> -vos quod quisque loquetur
> Credite. Beleeue you what they say, but neuer trie.

So let others tell you strange accidents, treasons, poysonings, close packings in France, Spaine and Italie: it is no harme for you to heare of them, but come not nere them.

What is there in Fraunce to bee learned more than in England, but fashion in kelowishy, perfect flouerie, to loue no man but for my pleasure, to sweare Ah par la mort Dieu when a mans haunnces are scabd. For the idle Traueller, (I meane not for the Soudiour) I haue knowen some that haue continued there by the space of halfe a

rith leane face vnder a broad French hat, kept a terrible coyle with the dust in the streete in their long cloakes of gray paper, and speake English strangely. Nought els haue they profited by their trauell, saue learnt to distinguish of the true Burdeaux Grape, and knowe a cup of neate Gascoigne wine, from wine of Orleance: yea and peraduenture this also, to esteeme of the por as a pimple, to weare a veluet patch on their face, and walke melancholy with their Armes folded.

From Spaine what bringeth our Traueller? a scull crowned hat of the fashion of an olde deepe porringer, a diminutiue Aldermans ruffe with short strings like the droppings of a mans nose, a close-bellied dublet comming downe with a peake behinde as farre as the crupper, and cut off before by the brest-bone like a partlet or neckercher, a wide patre of gascoynes, which vngathered would make a couple of womens eyding kirtles, huge bangers that haue half a cow hide in them, a rapier that is lineally descended from halfe a dozen Dukes at the least. Let his cloake be as long or as short as you will: if long, it is faced with Turkey grogeran raueld: if short, it hath a cape like a Calues tung, and is not so deepe in his whole length, nor hath so much cloath in it I will suffice, as only the standing cape of a Dutchmans cloke, I haue not yet tutcht all, for he hath in either shoo as much taffatie for his tyings as would serue for an ancient, which serueth him (if you will haue the mysterie of it) of the owne accord for a shoo-rag. A soldier & a braggart he is (thats concluded) he setteth strouting, dancing on hys toes with his hands vnder his sides. If you talk with him, he makes a dishcloth of his owne Country in comparison of Spaine, but if you vrge him more particularly wherin it excéeds, he can giue no instance but in Spaine they haue better bread than any we haue: when (poore hungrie slaues) they may crumble it into water well inough, & make mizers with it, for they haue not a good morsell of meate except it be salt pilchers to eat with it all the yere long: and which is more, they are poore beggers, and lye in fowle straw euerie night.

Italy the Paradice of the earth, and the Epicures heauen, how doth it forme our yong master? It makes him to kis his hand like an ape, cringe his necke like a starueling, and play at hey passe repasse come aloft when he salutes a man. From thence he brings the art of atheisme, the art of epicurising, the art of whoring, the art of poysoning, the art of Sodomitrie. The onely probable good thing they haue to keepe vs from vtterly condemning it, is, that it maketh a man an excellant Courtier, a curious carpet knight: which is by

terpretations, fine close leacher, a glorious hipocrite. It is nowe a priuie note amongst the better sort of men, when they would set a singular marke or brand on a notorious villaine, to say, he hath bene in Italy.

With the Dane and the Dutchman I will not encounter, for they are simple honest men, that with Danaus Daughters doe nothing but fill bottomeles tubs, & will be drunke & snort in the midst of dinner: he hurts himselfe only that goes thither, he cannot lightly be damnd, for the vintners, the brewers, the malt-men and alewiues pray for him. Pitch and pay, they will pray all day: score & borrow, they will wish him much sorrow. But lightly a man is nere the better for their prayers, for they commit all deadly sin for the most part of them in mingling their drinke, the vintners in the highest degree.

Why iest I in such a necessarie perswasiue discourse? I am a banisht exile from my country, though nere linkt in consanguitie to the best: an Earle borne by birth, but a begger now as thou seest. These manie yeres in Italy haue I liued an outlaw. A while I had a liberall pension of the Pope, but that lasted not, for he continued not: one succeeded him in his chaire that cared neither for Englishmen nor his owne countrimen. Then was I driuen to pick by my crums among the Cardinals, to implore the benevolence & charitie of al the Dukes of Italy, whereby I haue since made a poore shift to liue, but so liue, as I wish my selfe a thousand times dead.

Cum patriam amisi, tunc me periisse putato:
When I was banisht, thinke I caught my bane.

The sea is the native soile to fishes, take fishes from the sea, they take no ioy nor thriue, but perish straight. So likewise the birds removed from the aire (the abode whereto they were borne) the beasts from the earth, and I from England. Can a lamb take delight to be suckled at the breasts of a she wolfe? I am a lamb nourisht with the milke of wolues, one that with the Ethiopians inhabiting ouer against Meroe fed on nothing but scorpions: vse is another nature, yet ten times more contentiue were nature restored to her kingdom from whence she is excluded. Beleeue me, no aire, no bread, no fire, no water doth a man anie good out of his owne country. Cold frutes neuer prosper in a hot soyle, nor hot in a cold. Let no man for anie transitorie pleasure fall away the inheritance he hath of breathing in the place where hee

the sepulcher of thy fathers, waxe olde in ouerlooking thy grounds, be at hand to close the eyes of thy kinred. The diuel and I am desperate, he of being restored to heauen, I of being recalled home.

Here he held his peace and wept. I glad of any opportunitie of a full poynt to part from him, tolde him I tooke his counsaile in worth. what lay in mee to requite in loue should not bee lacking. Some businesse that concerned me highly cald mee away very hastely, but another time I hop'd we should méete. Verie hardly he let me goe, but I earnestly ouer pleading my occasions, at length he dismist mee, tolde mee where his lodging was, and charged mée to visite him without excuse verie often.

Heere a stir thought I to my selfe after I was set at libertie, that is worse than an vpbraiding lesson after a bitching: certainely if I had bethought me like a rascall as I was, he should haue had an Auemarie of me for his cynike exhortation. God plagud me for deriding such a graue fatherly aduertiser. Lift the worst throw of ill luckes. Tracing vppe and downe the Cittie to sèeke my Curtizan till the Euening began to grow verie well in age, it thus fortuned, the Element as if it had drunke too much in the afternoone, powrde downe so profoundly, that I was forst to crèep like one afraid of the watch close vnder the pentises, where the cellar doore of a Iewes house caled Zadoch (ouer which in my direct way I did passe) being vnbard on the in-side, ouer head and eares I fell into it, as a man falls in a shippe from the orelopè into the hold, or as in an earth-quake the ground should open, and a blinde man come fèeling pad pad ouer the open Gulph with his staffe, should tumble on a sodaine into hell. Hauing worne out the anguish of my fal a little with wallowing vp & downe, I cast vp myne eyes to sée vnder what Continent I was: and loe, (O destenie) I saw my Curtizane killing very louingly with a prentise.

My backe and my sides I had hurt with my fall, but nowe my head sweld and akt worse than both. I was euen gathering winde to come vppon her with a full blast of contumelie, when the Iewe (awakde with the noyse of my fall) came hastely bustling downe the staires, and raysing his other tenaunts, attached both the Curtizane and me for breaking his house, and conspiring with his prentise to rob him.

It was then the law in Rome, that if anie man had a fellon falne into his hands, either by breaking into his house, or robbing him by the high way, he might chuse whether he would make him his bondman, or hang him. Zadoch (as all Iewes are couetous) casting wi[th]

himselfe he should haue no benefit by casting me off the Ladder, had another pollicie in his heade: he went to one Doctor Zacharie the Popes Phisition, that was a Iew and his Countrey-man likewise and told him he had the finest bargaine for him that might be. It is not concealed from me (saith he) that the time of your accustomed yearely Anatomie is at hand, which it behoues you vnder forfeiture of the foundation of your Colledge very carefully to prouide for. The infection is great, & hardly will you get a sound body to deal vpon: you are my Countryman, therefore I come to you first. Be it knowen vnto you, I haue a yong man at home saine to me for my bond-man, of the age of eighteene, of stature tall, straight limd, of as cleare a complection as any Painters fancie can imagine: goe to, you are an honest man, and one of the scattred children of Abraham you shall haue him for fiue hundred crownes. Let me se him quoth Doctor Zacharie, and I will giue you as much as another. Home he sent for me, pinniond and shackeld I was transported alongst the streete: where passing vnder Iulianaes the Marques of Mantuaes wiues window, that was a lustie *Bona Roba* one of the Popes concubines, as shee had her casement halfe open, shee lookt out and spide me. At the first sight she was enamoured with my age and beardles face, that had in it no ill signe of phisiognomie fatall to fetters: after me she sent to know what I was, wherein I had offended, and whether I was going: My conducts resolued them all. Shee hauing receiued this answer, with a lustfull collachrimation lamenting my Iewish Premunire, that bodie and goods I should light into the hands of such a cursed generation, inuented the means of my release.

But first Ile tell you what betided mee after I was brought to Doctor Zacharies. The purblind Doctor put on his spectacles and lookt vpon me: and when he had throughly viewd my face, he caused me to be stript naked, to feele and grope whether each limber sound & my skin not infected. Then he pierst my arme to see how my blood ran: which assayes and searchings ended, he gaue Zadoch his full price and sent him away, then lockt me vp in a darke chamber till the day of anatomie.

O the colde sweating cares which I conceiued after I knewe I should be cut like a French summer doublet. Me thought already the blood began to gush out at my nose: if a flea on the arme had but bit me, I deemed the instrument had prickt me. Well, well, I may scoffe at a shrowd turne, but there's no such readie way to make a man a

Library of the

ne Christian, as to perswade himselfe he is taken vp for an anato-

mie. Ile depose I praid then more than I did in seuen yeare before. Not a drop of sweate trickled downe my breast and my sides, but I dreamt it was a smoth edgd razer tenderly slicing downe my breast and sides. If anie knockt at doore, I supposd it was the Bedle of surgeons hal come for me. In the night I dreamd of nothing but phlebotomie, blondie flures, incarnatiues, running vlcers. I durst not let out a wheale for feare through it I should bleede to death. For meat in this distaunce, I had plumporredge of purgations ministred me one after another to clarifie my blood, that it should not lye cloddered in the flesh. Nor did he it so much for clarifying Phisicke, as to saue charges. Miserable is that House that liues in a Phisitions house, Tantalus liues not so hunger starued in hell, as she doth there Not the verie crums that fall from his table, but Zacharie sweepes together, and of them moulds vp a Manna. Of the ashie parings of his bread, he would make conserue of chippings. But of bones after the meate was eaten off, hee would alchumize an oyle, that hee sold for a shilling a dram. His snot and spittle a hundred times hee hath put ouer to his Apothecarie for snow water. Anie spider hee would temper to perfect Mithridate. His rumaticke eies when hee went in the winde, or rose early in a morning, dropt as cole allome water as you would requeste. He was dame Niggardize sole heire & executor. A number of old books had he eaten with the moaths and wormes, now all day would not he studie a dodkin, but picke those wormes and moaths out of his Librarie, and of their mixture make a preseruatiue against the plague. The licour out of his shoes hee would wring to make a sacred Balsamum against barrennes.

Spare we him a line or two, and looke backe to Iuliana, who conflicted in her thoughts about me very doubtfully, aduentured to send a messenger to Doctor Zachary in hir name, verie boldly to beg mee of him, and if she might not beg me, to buy me with what summes of money soeuer hee would aske. Zacharie Iewishly and churlishlie denied both her sutes, and said if there were no more Christians on the earth, he would thrust his incision knife into his throate-bowle immediatly. Which replie she taking at his hands most despitefully thought to crosse him ouer the thins with as sore an ouerwhart blow ere a month to an end. The Pope (I know not whether at her entreatie or no) within two daies after fell sick, Doctor Zacharie was sent for to minister vnto him, who seeing a little danger in his water, gaue him a gentle comfortiue for the stomack, and desired those were about him to perswade his holines to take some rest, he doub

ted not but he would be forth with well. Who should receiue the
milde phisicke of him but the concubine Iuliana his vtter enemie: she
being not vnprouided of strong poyson at that instant, in the Popes
outward chamber so mingled it, that when his Grand-sublimity
taster came to relish it, he sunke downe stark dead on the pauement.
Herewith the Pope cald Iuliana, and askt her what strong concocted
broath she had brought him. She kneled downe on her knees, & said
it was such as Zacharie the Iew had deliuered her with hys owne
hands, and therfore if it misliked his holines she craued pardon. The
Pope without further sifting into the matter, would haue had Za-
charie and all the Iewes in Rome put to death, but she hung about
his knees, and with Crocodile tears desired him the sentence might
be leneſied, and they be all but banisht at the most. For Doctor Za-
charie quoth she, your ten-times vngratefull Phisition, since not-
withstanding his trecherous intent, he hath much Arte, and manie
soueraigne simples, oyles, gargarismes and sirups in his closet and
house that may stand your Mightines in stead, I begge all his goods
onely for your Beatitudes preseruation and good. This request at
the first was sealed with a kisse, and the Popes edict without delaye
proclaimed throughout Rome, namely, that all fore-skinne clippers
whether male or female belonging to the old Iurie, should depart
and auoid vpon pain of hanging within twentie daies after the date
thereof.

Iuliana (two daies before the proclamation came out) sent her
seruants to extend vpon Zacharies territories, his goods, his moue-
ables, his chattels and his seruants: who performed their commis-
sion to the vtmost title, and left him not so much as maker of an old
brinall case or a candle-bore. It was about fiue a clocke in the eue-
ning when those bot-halers entred into my chamber they ruſht,
when I sate leaning on my elbow, and my left hand vnder my side,
deuising what a kinde of death it might be to bee let blood tilla man
die. I cald to minde the assertion of some philosophers, who said the
soule was nothing but blood: then thought I, what a thing were
this, if I should let my soule fall and breake his necke into a bason.
I had but a pimple rose with heate in that parte if the beyne
where they vse to pricke, and I fearfully misdeemed it was my soule
searching for passage. Fie vpon it, a mans breath to bee let out at a
backe doore, what a villanie it is? To die bleeding is all one, as if a
man should die pissing, God drinke makes good blood, so that pisse is
nothing but blood vnder age. Seneca and Lucan were lobcockes to

and those that death of all other: a pig or a hog or any edible brute beast a cooke or a butcher deales vpon, dies bléeding. To die with a prick wherewith the fainted hartedst woman vnder heauen would not be kild, O God it is infamous.

In this meditation did they seaze vpon me, in my cloke they muffeld me that no man might know me, nor I sée which way I was carried. The first ground I toucht after I was out of Zacharyes house, was the Countesse Iulianas chamber: little did I surmise that fortune reserued me to so faire a death. I made no other reckoning all the while they had me on their sholders, but that I was on horsbacke to heauen, and carried to Church on a bere, excluded for euer for drinking any more ale or beer. Iuliana scornfully questiond them thus (as if I had falne into her hands beyond expectation) what proper apple squire is this you bring so suspitiously into my chamber? what hath he done? or where had you him? They answered likewise a far off, that in one of Zacharies chambers they found him close prisoner, and thought themselues guiltie of the breach of her Ladiships commaundement if they should haue left him. O quoth shee, yee loue to be double diligent, or thought peraduenture that I being a lone woman stood in néed of a loue. Bring you me a princocks beardlesse boy (I know not whence he is, nor whether he would) to call my name in suspense? I tell you, you haue abused mee, and I can hardly breake it at your hands. You should haue lead him to the magistrate, no commission receiued you of mee but for his goods & his seruants. They besought her to excuse their error, proceeding of dutious zeale no negligent default. But why should not I coniecture the worst quoth she? I tell you troth, I am halfe in a ielozie he is some fantasticke yonkster, who hath hyred you to dishonor me. It is a likely matter that such a man as Zacharie should make a prison of his house. By your leaue sir gallant, vnder locke and key shall you stay with me, till I haue enquirde farther of you, you shall be sifted throughly ere you and I part. Go maid, shewe him to the farther chamber at the end of the gallerie that lookes into the garden: you my trim pandors I pray gard him thether as you tooke paines to bring him hether: when you haue so done, sée the doores be made fast and come your way. Here is a wench had hir lesson: such are all women, each of them hath a cloke for the raine, and can bleare her husbands eies as she list. Not too much of this Madam Marques at once, let me dilate a little what Zadoch did with my curtizan after he had sold me to Zacharie. O an ill tree I hope neuer did not so

ſigyzed in grafting to expect good fruite: hee was a Iew, and intreated her like a Iew. Vnder ſhadow of enkozcing her to tell how much money ſhe had of his prentice ſo to be trayned to his cellar, hee ſtript her, and ſcourged her from top to toe tantara. Day by day he diſgſted his meate with leading her the meaſures. A diamond Delphinicall dzie leachour it was.

The ballet of the whipper of late days here in England, was but a ſcotte in compariſon of him. All the Colliers of Romford, who holde their cozpozation by parking the blinde beare at Paris garden, were but bunglers to him, he had the right agilitie of the lafh, there were none of them could make the cozde come aloft with a twange halfe like him. Marke the ending, marke the ending. The tribe of Iuda is adiudged from Rome to bee trudging, they may no longer bee lodged ther, al the Albumazers, Rabiſacks, Gedions, Tebiths, Benhadads, Benrodans, Zedechiaes, Halies of them were banquerouts and turned out of houſe and home. Zacherie came running to Zadochs in ſacke cloth and aſhes preſently after his goods were confiſcated and tolde him how he was ſerued, and what decrée was comming out againſt them all. Deſcriptions ſtand by, here is to bee expreſſed the furie of Lucifer when he was turnde ouer heauen barre for a wrangler. There is a toad fiſh, which taken out of the water ſwels more than one would thinke his ſkin could hold, and burſts in his face that toucheth him. So ſwelled Zadoch, and was readie to burſt out of his ſkin and ſhote his bowels like chaine-ſhot full at Zacharies face for bringing him ſuch balefull tidings, his eies glared & burnt blew like brimſtone and aqua vitæ ſet on fire in an eglhell, his verie noſe lightned glow-wormes, his téeth crafht and grated together, like the ioynts of a high building cracking and rocking like a cradle, when as a tempeſt takes her full but againſt his broad ſide. He ſwore, he curſt, and ſaide, theſe be they that worſhip that crucifide God of Nazareth, heres the fruits of their new fonnd Goſpell, ſulpher and gunpouder carry them al quick to Gehenna. I would ſpend my ſoule willingly, to haue that triple headed Pope with all his ſin-abſolued whores, and oilegreaſed prieſts borne with a blacke ſant on the diuells backes in proceſſion to the pit of perdition. Would I might ſink preſently into the earth, ſo I might blow vp this Rome, this whore of Babilon into the aire with my breath. If I muſt be baniſht, if thoſe heathen dogs will néeds rob me of my goods, I will poyſon their ſprings & conduit heades, whence they receiue al their water round about the citie, tlettce all the young children into my houſe that I can get, and cutting their throates

barrell them vp in pouldring beefe tubbes, and so send them to victuall the Popes gallies. Ere the officers come to extend, Ile bestow an hundred pound on a boale of bread, which I'le cause to be kneaded with scorpions oyle, that will kill more than the plague. I'le hire them that make their wafers or sacramentary gods, to minge them after the same sort, so in the zeale of their superstitious religion, shall they languish and droupe like carrion. If there be euer a blasphemous ceeniurer that can call the windes from their brazen caues, and make the cloudes trauell before their time, Ile giue him the other hundred pounds to disturbe the heauens a whole weeke together with thunder and lightning, if it bee for nothing but to sowre all the wines in Rome, and turne them to vineger. As long as they haue eyther oyle or wine, this plague feeds but pinglingly vpon them.

Zadoch, Zadoch, sayd Doctor Zachery, (cutting him off) thou threatnest the aire, whilest we perish here on earth, it is the countesse Iuliana the Marques of Mantuas wife and no other, that hath complotted our confusion, ask not how, but inlist in my wordes, and assist in reuenge.

As how, as how, sayde Zadoch, shrugging and shrubbing. More happie than the patriarches were I, if crushte to death with the greatest torments Romes tyrants haue tride, there might be quintesenst out of me one quart of precious poison. I haue a leg with an issue, shall I cut it off, & from his fount of corruption extract a venome worse than anie serpents? If thou wilt, Ile goe to a house that is infected, where catching the plague, and hauing got a running sore vpon me, Ile come and deliuer her a supplication and breath vpon her. I know me my breath strinkes so already, that it is within halfe a degree of poison, Ile pais her home if I perfect it with anie more putrifaction.

No, no brother Zadoch, answered Zachery, that is not the way. Canst thou prouide me ere a bond-maide, indued with singular & diuine qualified beautie, whom as a present from our synagogue thou mayst commend vnto her, desiring her to be good and gracious vnto her.

I haue, I am for you, quoth Zadoch: Diamante come forth.

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yeeres a wench(sayd he)of as cleane a skin as Susanna, shee hath not a wem on her flesh from the soale of the foote to the crowne of the head: how thinke you maister Doctor, will she not serue the turne?

She will sayde Zacharie, and therefore Ile tell you what charge I would haue committed to her. But I care not if I disclose it onely to her. Maide(if thou beest a maide)come hether to me,thou must be sent to the countesse of Mantuaes about a small peece of seruice,whereby being now a bond woman,thou shalt purchase freedome and gaine a large dowrie to thy mariage. I know thy maister loues thee dearly though he will not let thee perceiue so much, hee intends after hee is dead to make thee his heir,for he hath no children:please him in that I shall instruct thee and thou art made for euer. So it is,that the pope is farre out of liking with the countesse of Mantua his concubine,and hath put his trust in me his phisition to haue her quietly and charitably made away. Now I cannot intend it,for I haue many cures in hande which call vpon me hourly:thou if thou beest placd with her as her watching maid or cup-bearer,maist temper poison with hir broth, her meate,her drinke, her oyles, her sirrupes, and neuer bee bewraid. I will not saie whether the pope hath heard of thee, and thou mayst come to bee his lemman in her place, if thou behaue thy selfe wisely. What,hast thou the heart to go thorough with it or no? Diamante deliberating wyth her selfe in what hellish seruitude she liued with the Iew, & that shee had no likelyhood to be releast of it,but fall from euil to worse if she omitted this opportunitie,resigned her selfe ouer wholly to be disposed and employd as seemed best vnto them. Herupon, without further consultation, her wardrop was richly rigd,hir teeth smooth filed & new edgd on the whetstone, her drugs deliuered her, and presented she was by Zodoch hir maister to the countesse,together with some other slight newfangles,as from the whole congregatiõ,desiring her to stand their mercifull mistres, and solicite the pope for them, that through one mans ignorannt offence, were all generally in disgrace with him,and had incurred the cruel sentence of losse of goods and of banishment.

Iuliana

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Iuliana liking well the prettie round face of my black boy the Diamante, gaue the Iew better countenance than otherwise she would haue done, and told him for her owne part she was but a priuate woman, and could promise nothing confidently of his holines: for though he had suffered himselfe to be ouer-ruled by her in some humors, yet in this that toucht him so nerely, she knew not how he would be inclinde: but what laie in her either to pacifie or perswade him, they should be sure off, and so craues his absence.

His backe turnd, she askt Diamante what countrie woman she was, what friends she had, and how she fell into the hands of that Iew? She answered that she was a Magnifico daughter of Venice, stolne when she was young from her friends, and sold to this Iew for a bond-woman, who (quoth she) hath vsde me so iewishly and tyrannously, that for euer I must celebrate the memorie of this date, wherein I am deliuered from his iurisdiction. Alas (quoth she weeping) why did I enter into anie mention of my owne misusage? It will be thought that that which I am now to reueale, proceeds of mallice not truth. Madam, your life is sought by these Iews that sue to you. Blush not, nor be troubled in your minde, for with warning I shall arme you against all their intentions. Thus and thus (quoth she) said Doctor Zachery vnto me, this poyson he deliuered me. Before I was calde in to them, such a such consultation through the creuise of the doore hard I eckt did I heare betwixt them. Denie it if they can, I will iustifie it: onely I beseech you to be fauorable ladie vnto me, and let me not fall againe into the hands of those vipers.

Iuliana said little but thought vnhappily, onely she thankt her for detecting it, and vowed though she were her bond-woman to be a mother vnto her. The poison she tooke of her, and set it by charely on a shelfe in her closet, thinking to keepe it for some good purposes: as for example, when I was consumed and worne to the bones through her abuse, she would giue me but a dram too much, and pop mee into a priuie. So shee had serued some of her paramors ere that, and if God had not sent Diamante to be my reuéemer, vndoubtedly I had dronke of the same cup.

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In a leafe or two before was I lockt vp: here in this page the forsayd good wife Countesse comes to me, she is no longer a iudge but a client. Howe she came, in what manner of attyre, with what immodest and vnconuely words she courted me, if I should take vpon me to inlarge, all modest eares would abhorre me. Some inconuenience she brought me to by her harlot-like behauior, of which inough I can neuer repent me.

Let that be forgiuen and forgotten, fleshly delights could not make her slothfull or slumbring in reuenge against Zadoch. She set men about him to incense and egge him on in courses of discontentment, and other superuiuing ecpialls, to plie, follow, and spurre forward those suborning incensers. Both which playde their partes so, that Zadoch of his owne nature violent, swore by the arke of Iehoua to set the whole city on fire ere he went out of it. Zacharie after he had furnisht the wench with the poyson, and giuen her instructions to goe to the deuill, durst not stais one houre for feare of discloshing, but fled to the duke of Burbon that after sackt Rome, and there practised with his bastardship all the mischiefs against the pope & Rome that enuy could put into his mind. Zadoch was left behind for the hangman. According to his oath he prouided balls of wild fire in a readinesse, and lay traines of gunpouder in a hundred seuerall places of the citie to blow it vp, which he had set fire to, & also bandied his balls abroad, if his attendant spies had not taken him with the manner. To the straightest prison in Rome he was dragged, where from top to toe he was clogd with fetters and manacles. Iuliana informed the pope of Zachary and his practise, Zachary was sought for, but Non est inuentus, he was packing long before. Commandement was giuen, that Zadoch whom they had vnder hand and seale of lock and key, should be executed with al the firy torments that could be found out.

Ile make short worke, for I am sure I haue wearyed all my readers. To the execution place was he brought, where first and formost he was stript, then on a sharp pyon stake fastened in ỹ ground, he had his fundament pitcht, which stake ran vp along into the bodie like a spit, vnder his arme-holes

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two

two of lyke sorte, a great hon-fire they made round about him, wherewith his flesh roasted not burnd: and euer as with the heate his skinne blistred, the fire was drawen aside, and they basted him with a mixture of Aqua fortis, allum water, and Mercury sublimatum, which smarted to the very soule of him and searcht him to the marrowe. Then dyd they scourge his backe partes so blistred and basted, with burning whips of red hot wier: his head they noynted ouer with pitch and tar, and so inflamed it. To his priuie members they tied streaming fire-workes, the skinne from the crest of the shoulder, as also from his elbowes, his buckle bones, his knees, his ancles, they pluckt and gnawed off with sparkling pincers: his breast and his belly with seale skins they grated ouer, which as fast as they grated and rawed, one stood ouer & laued with smiths syndry water & Aqua vite: his nailes they halfe raised vp, and then vnder-propt them with sharpe prickes like a Tailers shop windowe halfe open on a holy daie: euery one of his fingers they rent vp to the wrist: his toes they brake off by the rootes, and let them still hang by a little skinne. In conclusion they had a small ogle fire, such as men blow light bubbles of glasse with, and beginning at his feete, they let him lingringly burne vp lim by lim till his heart was consumed, and then he died. Triumph women, this was the end of the whipping Iew, contriued by a woman, in reuenge of two women, her selfe and her maide.

I haue told you or I should tel you in what credit Diamante grew with hir mistres. Iuliana neuer dreamed but she was an authenticall maide: she made her the chiefe of her bed-chamber, she appoynted none but her to loke in to me, & serue me of such necessaryes as I lacked. You must suppose when wee met there was no small reioycing on either parte, much like the three brothers that went three seuerall wayes to seeke their fortunes, & at the yeres ende at those three crosse waies met againe, and told one another how they speeded: after wee had bin long asunder seeking our fortunes, wee commented one to another most kindly, what crosse haps had encountred vs. Neare a fiue houres but the Countesse clogs me with her companie. It grew to this passe that either I must finde out some

some miraculous meanes of escape, or drop awaie in a consumption, as one pinde for lacke of meate: I was clean spent and done, there was no hope of me.

The yere held on his course to downes day, when Saint Peters vaie dawned: that day is a day of singular solemnity in Rome, when the Embassador of Spaine comes and presents a milke white iennet to the pope, that kneeles downe vppon his owne accord in token of obeisaunce and humilitie before him, and lets him stride on his back as easie as one strides ouer a blocke: with this iennet is offered a rich purse of a yards length full of Peter pence. No musicke that hath the gifte of vtterance but sounds all the while: coapes and costly bestments decke the boyest and beggerlyest singing-man, not a clarke or sexten is absent, no more a mule or a foot cloth belonging to any Cardinall but attendeth on the taile of the triumph. The pope himselfe is borne in his pontificalibus thorough the Burgo (which is the chiefe streete in Rome) to the Embassadours house to dinner, and thether resorteth all the assembly: where if a poet should spend all his wit a time in describing a banket, he could not feast his auditors halfe so well with words, as he doth his guests with meates.

To this feast Iuliana addressed her selfe like an angel, in a litter of greene needle worke wrought like an arbour, and open on euerie side was she borne by foote men, hidden vnder cloth rough plushed and wouen like eglentine and woodbine. At the foure corners it was topt with foure rounde christall cages of Nightingales. For foote men, on either side of her went foure virgins clad in lawne, with lutes in their hands playing. Next before her two and two in order, a hundred pages in suites of white cipresse, and long horse mens coates of cloth of siluer: who being all in white, aduanced euerie one of them his picture, enclosed in a white round screene of feathers, such as is carried ouer greate princesses heads when they ride in summer to keepe them from the heate of the sun, before them went a foure score braue women shee mantayned in greene gownes, scattering strawing hearbes and flowres. After her followed the blinde, the halte and the lame funerally apparelled like Lords, and thus past she on to S. Peters,

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Incerea quid agitur domi, how ist at home all this while. My curtizan is left my keper, the keyes are committed vnto hir, she is mistres fac totum. Against our countesse we conspire, packe vp all her iewels, plate, mony that was extant, and to the water side send them: to conclude, couragiously rob her, and runaway. Quid non auri sacra fames? what defame will not golde salue. Hee mistooke himselfe that inuented the prouerbe, Dimicandum est pro aris & focis: for it should haue been pro auro & fama: not for altares and fires we must contend, but for gold and fame.

Dares nor winde could not stirre nor blow faster, than we toyld out of Tiber; a number of good fellowes would giue size ace and the dice that with as little toyle they could leaue Tyburne behinde them. Out of ken we were ere the Countesse came from the feast. When she returned and found her house not so much pesired as it was wont, her chests her closets and her cupbords broke open to take aier, and that both I and my keper was missing: O then shee fared like a franticke Bacchinall, she staumpt, she star'd, shee beate her head against the walls, scratcht her face, bit her fingers, and strewd all the chamber with her haier. Mens of her seruants durst stay in her sight, but she beate them out in heapes, and bad them goe seeke search they knew not where, and hang themselues, and neuer take her in the face more, if they did not hunt vs out. After her furie had reasonably spent it selfe; her breast began to swell with the mother, caused by her former fretting & chasing, and she grew verie ill at ease. Whereuppon shee knockt for one of her maids. and bad her run into her closet, and fetch her a little glasse that stood on the vpper shelfe, wherein there was spiritus vini. The maid went, & mistaking took the glasse of poyson which Diamante had giu'n her and she kept in store for me. Comming with it as fast as her legs could carrie her, her mistresse at hir returne was in a sownd, and lay for dead on the floore, whereat she shrikt out, and fel a rubbing & chafing her very busily. When that would not serue, she took a keye and opened her mouth, and hauing heard that spiritus Vini was a thing of mightie operation, able to call a man from death to life, shee took the poyson, and verely thinking it

to

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...e spiritus vini (such as she was sent for) powred a large quantitie of it into her throate, and leapt on her backe to digest it. It reuiued her with a verie vengeaunce, for it kild her outright, onely she awaked & lift vp her hands, but spake neere a worde. Then was the maid in my grandames beanes, and knew not what should become of her, I heard the Popetoke pittie on her, & because her trespasse was not voluntarie but chance-medly, he assigned hir no other punishment but this, to drinke out the rest of the poison in the glasse that was left, and so go scot-free. Wee careless of these mischances, holde on our flight, and saw no man come after vs but we thought had pursued vs. A theefe, they saie, mistakes euerie bush for a true man, the winde rattled not in any bush by the way as I rode, but I straight drew my rapier. To Bologna with a merry gale we coasted, where wee lodged our selues in a blinde streete out of the waie, and kept secret many daies: but when we perceiued we laid in the hauen, that the winde was laid, and no allarum made after vs, we boldly came abroad: & one day hearing of a more desperate murtherer than Caine that was to be executed, we followed the multitude, and grutcht not to lend him our eyes at his last parting.

Who should it be but one Cutwolfe, a wearish dwarfish withen facde cobler, brother to Bartol the Italian, that was confederate with Esdras of Granado, and at that time stole away my curtizan when he rauisht Heraclide.

It is not so naturall for me to epitomize his impietie, as to heare him in his owne person speak vpon the wheele where he was to suffer.

Prepare your eares and your teares, for neuer fyll this thrust I anie tragecall matter vpon you. Strange and wonderfull are Gods iudgements; here shine they in their glory. Thast Heraclide, thy blood is laid vp in heauens treasury, not one drop of it was lost, but lent out to vsurie: water powred forth sinkes downe quietly into the earth, but blood spilt on the ground sprinkles vp to the firmament. Murder is wide-mouthd, and will not let God rest till he grant reuenge. Not onely the blood of the slaughtred innocent, but the soul ascendeth to his throne, and there cries out & exclaimes for iustice

and

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recompence. Guiltlesse soules that liue euery houre subiect to violence, and with your dispairing feares dee much empaire Gods prouidence: fasten your eies on this spectacle that will adde to your faith. Referre all your oppressions, afflictions, & iniuries to the euen ballanced eie of the Almightie, be it is that when your patience slæpeth, will be most exceeding mindfull of you.

This is but a glose vpon the text: thus Cutwolfe begins his insulting oration.

Men and people that haue made holy day to beholde my pained flesh toil on the wheele, expect not of me a whining penitent slaue, that shal do nothing but cry and say his praiers and so be crusht in peces. My bodie is little, but my minde is as great as a gyants: the soule which is in mee, is the verie soule of Iulius Cæsar by reuersion, my name is Cutwolfe, neither better nor worse by occupation, but a poore Cobler of Verona, Coblers are men and kings are no more. The occasion of my comming hether at this present, is to haue a few of my bones broken (as we are all borne to die) for being the death of the Emperour of homicides Esdras of Granado. About two yeeres since in the streets of Rome he slew the only and eldest brother I had named Bartoll, in quarrelling about a curtizan. The newes brought to me as I was sitting in my shop vnder a stal knocking in of tacks, I thinke I raild vp my brittles, solde pitch-aule, spunge, blacking tub; and punching vpon, bought mee rapier and pistoll, and to goe I went. Twentie months together I pursued him, from Rome to Naples, from Naples to Caiete passing ouer the riuer, from Caiete to Syenna, from Syenna to Florence, from Florence to Parma, from Parma to Pauia, from Pauia to Syon, from Syon to Geneua, from Geneua backe againe towards Rome: where in the way it was my chance to meet him in the nicke here at Bologna, as I will tell you how. I sawe a great traie in the streates as I past along, and many swordes walking, whereupon drawing nearer, and enquiring who they were, answer was returned me it was that notable Bandetto Esdras of Granado. O, so I was tickled in the splene with that word, my hart hopt and dauncd, my elbowes itcht, my fingers frisht,

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not what would become of my fate, nor knewe what I did for him. The fray parted, I thought it not conuenient to single him out (beeing a sturdie knaue) in the streat but to stay vntil I had got him at more aduantage. To his lodging I doge him, lay at the doze all night where hee entred, for feare hee should giue me the slip anye way. Betimes in the morning I rung the bel and craued to speke with him now to his chamber doze I was brought, where knocking hee rose in his shirt and let me in, and when I was entred, bad me lock the doze and declare my arrant, and so be slipt to bed againe.

Marrie this quoth I is my arrant: Thy name is Esdras of Granado, is it not? Most trencherously thou slewst my brother Bartoll about two yeres agon in the streetes of Rome: his death am I come to reuenge. In quest of thee euer since a bone thze thousand miles haue I trauailed. I haue begd to maintaine me the better part of the waye, onely because I would intermit no time from my pursute in going backe for monie. Now haue I got thee naked in my power, die thou shalt, though my mother and my grandmother dying did intreate for thee. I haue promist the diuell thy soule within this houre, breake my word I will not, in thy breast I intend to burie a bullet. Stirre not, quinch not, make no noyse: for if thou dost it will be worse for thee.

Quoth Esdras, what euer thou best at whose mercie I lye, spare me, and I wil giue thee as much gold as thou wilt aske, Put me to anie paines my life reserued, and I willingly will sustaine them: cut off my armes and legs, and leaue me as a lazer to some loathsome spittle, where I may but liue a yeare to pray and repent me. For thy brothers death the despayre of mind that hath euer since haunted mee, the guiltie gnawing worme of conscience I feele may bee sufficient penance. Thou canst not send me to such a hell, as already there is in my hart. To dispatch me presently is no reuenge, it will soone be forgotten: let me dye a lingring death, it will be remembred a great deale longer. A lingring death may auaile my soule, but it is the illest of ills that can befortune my bodie. For my soules health I beg my bodie torment: bee not thou a diuell to torment my soule, and send me to eternall damnation.

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tion. Thy euer-hanging swoꝛd hides heauen from my sight, I dare not looke vp, least I embrace my deathes, wounde vnwares. I cannot pꝛay to God, and plead to thee both at once. Aymee, dreadie I see my life buried in the wꝛinckles of thy bꝛowes: say but I shall liue, though thou meanest to kill me. Nothing confounds like to suddaine teꝛꝛoꝛ, it thꝛusts eueric sense out of office. Poyson waꝛpt vp in sugred pills is but halfe a poyson: the feare of deaths lookes are moꝛe teꝛꝛible than his stroake. The whilest I vieiwe death, my faith is deaded: where a mans feare is, there his heart is. Feare neuer engendꝛes hope: how can I hope that heauens father will saue mee from the hell euerlasting, when he giues me ouer to the hell of thy furie.

Heraclide now thinke I on thy teares sowne in the dust, (thy teares, that my bloudie minde made barraine). In reuenge of thee, God hardens this mans heart against mee: yet I did not slaughteꝛ thee, though hundꝛeds else my hand hath bꝛought to the shambles. Gentle sir, learne of mee what it is toꝛtuꝛe your conscience with murder, to haue your dꝛeames, your sleepes, your solitarie walkes troubled and disquited with murther: your shaddowe by daie will affright you, you will not see a weapon vnsheathde, but immediatly you will imagine it is pꝛedestinate foꝛ your destruction.

This murther is a house diuided within it selfe: it subboꝛnes a mans owne soule to inditeme against him: his soule (beeing his accuser) bꝛings foꝛth his two eyes as witnesses against him, and the last eie witnesse is vnrefutable. Plucke out my eyes if thou wilt, and depꝛiue my traiterous soule of her two best witnesses. Digge out my blasphemous tongue woꝛth thy dagger, both tongue and eyes will I gladly foꝛgoe to haue a lyttle moꝛe time to thinke on my iourney to heauen.

Deferre a while thy resolution, I am not at peace wyth the woꝛld, foꝛ euen but yesterdaie I fought, and in my furie thꝛeatned further vengeance: had I a face to aske foꝛgiuenesse, I shoulde thinke halfe my sinnes were foꝛgiuen. A hundꝛed deuils haunt mee daylie foꝛ my hoꝛꝛible murthers:

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the deuilles when I die will bee loth to goe to hell with mée, for they desired of Christ he would not send them to hel before their time: if they goe not to hell, into thee they will goe, and hideously vex thee for turning them out of their habitation. Wounds I contemne, life I prize light, it is another worlds tranquilitie which makes me so timerous: euerlasting damnation, euerlasting howling and lamentation. It is not from death I request thee to deliuer me, but frō this terror of torments eternitie. Thy brothers bodie only I pearst vnaduisedly, his soule meant I no harme to at all: my bodie & soule both shalt thou cast awaie quite, if thou doest at this instant what thou maist. Spare me, spare me I beseech thee, by thy owne soules saluation I desire thee, seeke not my soules vtter perdition: in destroying me, thou destroyest thy self and me. Eagerly I replid after this long suppliant oration: Though I knew God would neuer haue mercy vpon me except I had mercie on thee, yet of thee no mercy would I haue. Reuenge in our tragedies is continually raised from hell: of hell doo I esteeme better than heauen, if it afford me reuenge. There is no heauen but reuenge. I tel thee, I would not haue vndertoke so much toile to gaine heauen, as I haue done in pursuing thee for reuenge. Diuine reuenge, of which (as of ỹ ioies aboue) there is no fulnes or satietie. Looke how my téte are blistered with following thee frō place to place. I haue rinsed my throat with ouerstraining it to curse thée. I haue ground my teeth to pouder with grating & grinding them together for anger when any hath namde thée. My tongue with vaine threates is bolne, and waxen too big for my mouth: my eyes haue broken their strings with staring and looking ghastly, as I stood deuising how to frame or set my countenance whē I met thee. I haue néere spent my strength in imaginarie acting on stone wals, what I determined to execute on thee: intreate not, a miracle may not reuiue thée: villaine, thus march I with my blade into thy bowels.

Stay, stay exclaimed Esdras, and heare me but one word further. Though neither for God nor man thou carest, but placest thy whole felicitie in murther, yet of thy felicity learn how to make a greater felicitie. Respite me a little from thy

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words

swordes point, and set me about some execrable enterprise, that may subuert the whole state of christendome, and make all mens eares tingle that heare of it. Commaund me to cut all my kindreds throates, to burne men, women and children in their beds in millions, by firing their Cities at midnight. Be it Pope, Emperor or Turke that displeaseth thee, he shall not breath on the earth. For thy sake will I sweare and forsweare, renounce my baptisme, and all the interest I haue in any other sacrament, onely let mee liue howe miserable so euer, be it in a dungeon amongst toades, serpents, and adders, or set vp to the necke in dong. No paines I will refuse howe euer prorogued, to haue a little respite to purifie my spirit: oh heare me, heare me, e thou canst not be hardned against me.

At this his importunitie I paused a little, not as retiring frō my weakfull resolution: but going backe to gather more forces of vengeannce, with my selfe I deuised how to plague him double in his base minde: my thoughtes trauelld in quest of some notable newe Italianisme, whose murderous platforme might not onely extend on his bodie, but his soul also. The ground worke of it was this: that whereas he had promised for my sake to sweare and forsweare, and commit Iulian-like violence on the highest scales of religion: if he would but this farre satisfie me, he should be dismist from my furie. First and formost he should renounce God and his lawes, and vtterly disclaime the whole title or interest he had in anie couenant of saluation. Next he should curse him to his face, as Iob was willed by his wife, and write an absolute firme obligation of his soule to the deuill, without condition or exception. Thirdly and lastly, (hauing done this,) he shoulde pray to God feruently neuer to haue mercie vpon him, or pardon him. Scarce had I propounded these articles vnto him, but he was beginning his blasphemous abiurations. I wonder the earth opened not and swalowed vs both, hearing the bolde tearmes he blasted forth in contempt of Christianitie: heauen hath thundered when halfe lesse contumelies against it hath bene vttered. Able they were to raise Saintes and martyrs from their graues, and plucke Christ himselfe from the right hand of his father. My ioints trembled e quakt

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with affecting them, my haire stood vpright, & my hart was turned wholy to fire. So affectionatly and zealously dyd he giue himselfe ouer to infidelity, as if Sathan had gotten the vpper hand of our high maker. The tyrene in his left hand that is ocrined from the hart with no faint blow he pierst, & with the full blood that flowed from it, writ a full obligation of his soule to the deuill: yea, he more earnestly praid vnto God neuer to forgiue his soule, than many christians do to saue their soules. These fearefull ceremonies brought to an end, I bad him ope his mouth and gape wide. He did so (as what will not slaues do for feare) therewith made I no more ado, but shot him full into the throat with my pistoll: no more spake he after, so did I shoot him that he might neuer speake after or repent him. His bodie being dead looke as blacke as a toad: the deuill presently branded it for his owne. This is the fact that hath called me hether, no true Italian but will honor me for it. Reuenge is the glorie of armes, & the highest performance of valure, reuenge is whatsoeuer we call law or iustice. The farther we wade in reuenge the nearer come we to ỹ throne of the almightie. To his scepter it is properly ascribed, his scepter he lends vnto man, when he lets one man scourge an other. All true Italians imitate me in reuenging constantly and dying valiantly. Hangman to thy taske, for I am readie for the vtmost of thy rigor. Herewith all the people (outragiously incensed) with one coniojned outcrie, yelled mainely, Awaie with him, away with him, Executioner torture him, teare him, or we will teare thee in peces if thou spare him.

The executioner needed no exhortation hereunto, for of his owne nature was he hackster good inough: olde excrement he was at a bone-ach. At the first chop with his wood-knife would he fish for a mans heart, and fetch it out as easily as a plum from the bottome of a porredge pot. He would cracke neckes as fast as a cooke cracks egges: a fidler cannot turne his pin so soone as he would turne a man of the ladder: bravely did he drum on this Cutwolfes bones, not breaking them outright, but like a sadler knocking in of tackes, iarring on them quaueringly with his hammer a great while together. No ioint about him but with a hatchet he had for the nones he dislocn-

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diſiopnted halfe, and then with boyling lead ſouldered vp the wounds from bla ding his tongue he pild out, leaſt he ſhould blaſpheme in his torment: venimous ſtinging wormes hee thruſt into his eares to keep his head rauingly occupied: with cankers ſcruzed to péces hee rubd his mouth and his gums: no lim of his but was lingeringly ſplintered in ſhiuers. In this horror left they him on the wheele as in hell: where yet liuing he might beholde his fleſh legacied amongſt the foules of the aire. Vnſearchable is the booke of our deſtinies, one murder begetteth another: was neuer yet bloud-ſhed barren from the beginning of the world to this daie. Mortifiedly abiected and daunted was I with this trunculent tragedie of Curwolfe and Eſdras. To ſuch ſtraight life did it thence forward incite me, that ere I went out of Bolognia I married my curtizan, performed many almes-déedes, and haſted ſo faſt out of the Sodom of Italy, that within fortie daies I arriued at the king of Englands campe twixt Ardes and Guines in France: where he with great triumphs met and entertained the Emperour and the French king, and feaſted many daies. And ſo as my ſtorie began with the king at Turnay and Turwin, I thinke méete here to end it with the king at Ardes and Guines. All the concluſiue epilogue I will make is this, that if herein I haue pleaſed anie, it ſhall animat mee to more paines in this kind. Otherwiſe I will ſweare vpon an Engliſh Chronicle neuer to bee out-landiſh Chronicler more while I liue. Farewell as many as wiſh me well.

FINIS.

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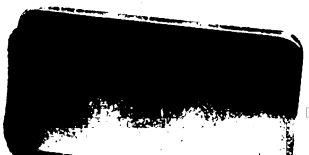

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